

July 2023

When the time comes, you are never prepared. We had prepared ourselves mentally and emotionally to see that my stepfather's condition was unreversible, and we were facing the end. I knew the man that first came into my life twenty-four years ago would not like to see this decline in himself. He was an active person and to see himself reduced to a very dependent state would be distressful. When I think back to May, we were able to bring him to Trinity for the healing service that conveniently fell on his 86th birthday. I know that God allowed for that to happen, because soon after it was extremely difficult to take him out because he was so weak. I am so grateful that he had the opportunity to be anointed by Pastor Ottoson during the healing service. Looking back, I believe that perhaps that moment was the beginning of his return home.

I felt God's faithfulness throughout the entire journey to the "end." When it seemed like things were so insurmountable, that was when God used a loving neighbor to share information about hospice services. My mom called and on the same day we began getting help. I was able to see Christ within every single person that came to the house. The way in which the hospice case worker, aides, nurses and chaplains cared for not only my stepfather, but also for my mom and I could only be described as Christ-like. These earth angels truly helped us make it through the last week.

As the "end" neared, I prayed to God to thank him for his faithfulness and to beg for the opportunity to be present for my stepfather's final moments. With each passing day, his medication increased to relieve his pain and my nervousness increased. I would think to myself, "how will we know when it is the day and how can I be sure that I will be there?" The morning of Friday June 30th started off as any other day. My kids and I went to visit. Mia put a painted rock that she specially crafted in Pop Pop's hand before we left for summer camp. Alejandro watched tv from his play pen positioned on the side of the hospital bed while Pop Pop slept. I went off to work with an uneasiness in my stomach. By noon, my mom called to say the nurse just left and said that today looked like it would be "the" day. I raced to finish work and return to my mom's house. As I made it back to sit and hold his hand and reminisce on the good and bad, I was sure to thank God for fulfilling my prayers. As we tearfully gave my stepfather permission to go, I couldn't help but notice two glaring signs that he was understanding us and that God was present. The song, "I Could Not Ask For More," performed by Sara Evans was playing in the background. The minute my mother told my stepfather that it was ok to go and that we would always love him and never forget him, one single tear slid down his face. To me, that moment indicated that he heard us. After that, he was gone.

I chose to share this very recent and personal experience because friends and members of Trinity are my family. It is important to share my own testament of how the Lord is working within my life and how wonderful He is. This is something we should all try to share more with one another as we get bogged down with the other parts of life that are unknown or murky. With every bump in the road, it is important to see the silver lining of God's goodness to help carry us through the tribulations of life.

Over the last two days I have been thinking about where we are now. We as a congregational family are still mourning the loss of our previous pastor. He was loved by many of us, and his leaving was something that we were not anticipating. As we maneuver through the call process, I am realizing the synod created it to provide comfort and guidance as we go through the mourning process. The synod has broken it down into steps, some of them seemingly slow, but that is to allow us time to mourn. The restless anxiety that we all feel as we stumble through trying to find a new normal *is normal*. We are on the brink of being able to form a call committee, who will guide us through to the next chapter of our "new" lives at Trinity. None of this has been quick or easy because experiencing loss is not quick or easy. We have our interim pastor to guide us during the murky times. Most importantly, when times seem overwhelming, it is important to take comfort in God's faithfulness to us. *"I am with you always, ever to the end of the age."* - Matthew 28:20.

Blessings and peace,

Mary



Transition Questions?



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Do you have questions about the Call process? The Florida Bahama Synod has a very detailed guide that provides information about every step of the process to finding a new pastor. You can read more at the Florida-Bahamas Synod's website: <https://fbsynod.com/resources/transitions/>.

Rest assured that the Council, and once appointed, the Call Committee, will be in regular contact to keep the congregation up to date with the call process. Please use this time of transition to hold the congregation of Trinity in your prayers, along with the Synod and our Interim Pastor.

Hurricane Policy

Hurricane season is here, and it is important to be prepared! In the event a Hurricane Warning is issued for Volusia County on the weekend, Sunday worship services will be canceled. The congregation is invited to come for worship the following Wednesday at 7:00 PM.

Mission of the Month

Trinity's Outreach Ministry for June and July will be for Chisholm Elementary School. We will be collecting new socks and underwear (all sizes) and school supplies for students and teachers.

Items needed:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Computer paper | Envelopes |
| Hole puncher | Big rolls of tape |
| Dry erase marker spray | Medium/Large binders |
| Dividers with tabs | Colored pencils |
| Folders with pockets | Glue sticks |



Extra Clothes:

Girl's biker/spandex shorts and leggings sizes S-XL

Boy's drawstring pants and shorts size S-XL

*These are helpful for accidents or spills!

If you prefer to donate to Chisholm via Trinity, please notate Chisholm Elementary on your check memo or offering envelope.

Directory Updates

We have had many changes in the last year, so it seemed better to print a new directory rather than merely providing inserts with new member information. Apologies to all new members who have not had their information shared within the congregation. If you have updates to your contact information that you would like to be reflected in the new directory, please contact the office.



Waivers

Waivers will be sent out to every household seeking permission to use your pictures on our website. We prefer to have permission prior to posting pictures of life at Trinity. Only individuals that provide their permission will have pictures posted on the website. Please know that if you change your mind about your preferences, you may contact the office at any time to have your changes updated.



Caregiver Support Group

Assisted Living Made Simple hosts their caregiver support group in the Fellowship once a month. They meet on the second Tuesday of the month from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. If you are interested, please join! The next meeting is July 11th.

July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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2 Worship- 9:30 am	3	4 4 th of July Holiday Mission Work Shop- 9 am Office Closed	5	6 Praise Team Meeting 9:15 am	7	8
9 Worship- 9:30 am Outreach Meeting- after worship	10	11 Caregiver Support Group 10:30- 12:30	12	13	14	15
16 Worship- 9:30 am	17 Stewardship Meeting- 6pm	18 Mission Work Shop- 9 am Exec. Council - 10 am	19	20 Elizabeth Circle Meeting- 10 am	21	22
23 Worship- 9:30 am	24 Halifax Urban Ministries- 10: 15 am	25 Mission Work Shop- 9 am Council Meeting- 6 pm	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Report on the Synod Assembly from Jonathan Weinrich:

June 1st-3rd my mom Karen and I attended the Florida-Bahamas Synod Assembly. We were able to learn a lot and experience awesome worship. The theme for the assembly was “Renewed in Christ.” After the pandemic measures were lifted, we had a re-ignition of the spark. Now we must kindle it and foster our community.



Our first order of business was the election of the Bishop. We are happy to report that Bishop Pedro Suarez was re-elected on the first ballot. His inspirational sermon was about our role as children of God. He will be serving for the next six years. He is a big personality and kept us entertained even through the financial reports!



The Keynote Speaker was S.E.P.A Synod Bishop Patricia Ann Curtis Davenport. I met her last summer at Bear Creek Camp when she commissioned our camp, and when I re-introduced myself she recognized me as well. Her CV is filled with experiences in the church and with her surrounding communities in Philadelphia. She has served on ELCA Congregational Vitality and African Descent Strategy team and is part of the African Descent Lutheran Association. She preached about our calling, along with Moses’ and John’s calling, to be advocates. “We must imitate those who are faithful,” she said. God made his own son, Jesus Christ, to be an advocate for the marginalized communities. He healed the sick and forgave those who had sinned. Therefore, we must stand with marginalized communities, help those who struggle and advocate for those who receive hate. She spoke of God’s role in times of crisis and trials. Bishop Davenport said God accompanies us through our struggles so we will have the spirit to take action and advocate for others.



The trunk of our car was full of donations to the Harbor House. Thank you for all of your donations. The assembly collected so much that the organizers filled every single container they brought and needed a U-Haul to take it all back to their facility.



Throughout the assembly, there were five-minute videos highlighting inspirational ministries of the Florida-Bahamas Synod. One of my favorites was when we learned of the Jacksonville Campus Ministries, which opens affordable, inclusive housing for students at the University of North Florida. This is similar to where I live while in college, in a house owned by Trinity Lutheran, Kutztown, and rented at affordable prices to students.

We also heard of the sad news of 3 Synod congregations disbanding. With that news though, there is light. The Synod has received money from selling the properties, which will now

be used as grants around the synod. Luther Springs, a summer camp here in FL received the first \$50,000 grant from the synod. The Synod launched a website to continue to distribute the grants to programs across FBSynod. This is a program we at Trinity can look into and apply for a ministry grant. Check it out at <https://www.v2agrants.org/>.

Finally, we heard about next summer's National Youth Gathering, which will be held July 16-20 in New Orleans, LA. This is for both high school students and young adults. It is a "life changing faith formation event of the ELCA." The theme is "Created to Be." I will be attending the young adult gathering with a group from Trinity, Kutztown, but I hope we will be able to send our youth as well. The informational website is <https://www.elca.church/gathering>.



Thank you for the opportunity to attend and learn more about the wider church. My mom and I had a great time. We met many new people and caught up with others we hadn't seen in a long time. The experience taught me a lot about the synod and our church, I'm excited to use what I learned in future endeavors.

Jonathan Weinrich

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.

Summer worship and music conferences "in person" will again be held this summer after three years of on-line conferences due to the Coronavirus worldwide pandemic.

Barb and I will be attending two events.

The Montreat Worship and Music Conference (Presbyterian) in Montreat, NC. The conference theme is "Thirst No More."

The Biennial National Conference of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians in Philadelphia, PA. The conference theme is "What Wondrous Love."

It will be wonderful to be with colleagues again this year.

Cantate Domino! (Sing to the Lord!)

Brian Larson

Ministry Updates

Trinity's friend Rafael Van Ommeren was recently acknowledged in the Florida Bahamas Synod E- Spirit Newsletter: "Rafael graduated in late May from the Jamaica-based United Theological College of the West Indies (UTCWI). UTCWI is another of our companions, and is the primary training ground for pastoral leaders in the Caribbean. Rafael has now returned to Suriname where he will serve as an intern and then be ordained. We rejoice with him and his wife Lucielle who were able to spend time in Florida last summer following Rafael's CPE training (Clinical Pastoral Education) in the United States."



Church Insurance Increase

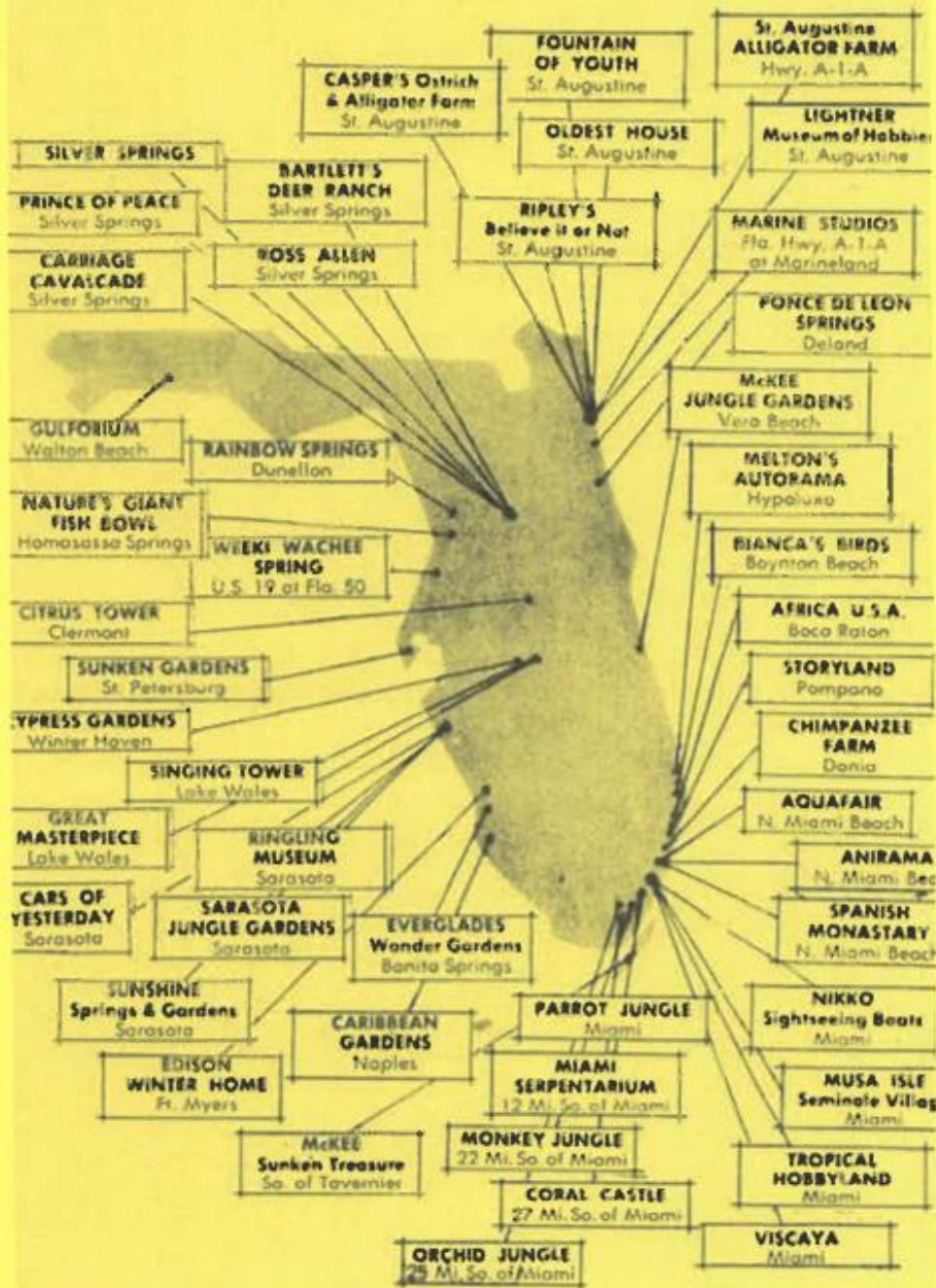
Trinity's property insurance cost \$16,000 in 2022. Our renewal price for 2023 was \$46,302.44. After a great deal of research from Roy Coons, the Stewardship lead, (Thank you, Roy for your time and dedication to this!) we were successful in finding another policy that cost \$37,000.00. Thankfully we were able to pay the premium for the policy in full. We received a memorial donation previously that covered the cost of this unexpected increase. We are most thankful that God and the generosity of a beloved member's legacy allowed this burden to be removed from our shoulders. This is something that we must plan and prepare in advance for the next year, but it is a true blessing to know that we are covered for the next year.

Outreach Meeting

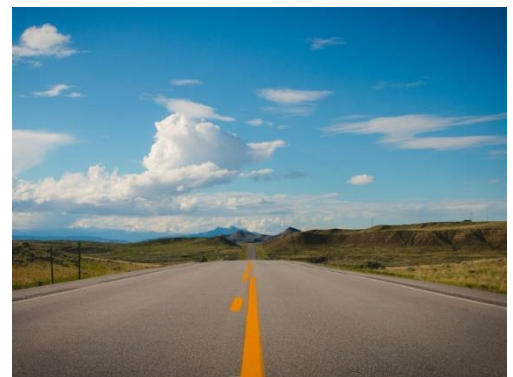
The next Outreach meeting will be on Sunday July 9th after worship. A major topic of discussion will be what should Trinity do to celebrate "God's work. Our hands." Sunday. If you would like to share ideas or perhaps get some "insider" information on what is coming next on our Outreach schedule, please plan to join!



See All of Florida's Finest Attractions



Road trips are a quintessential pastime of summer! If you are looking for a new place to visit, you may wish to consider one of these options! Florida has so many unique opportunities to offer!





July Birthdays

4	Linda Soden	20	Cyrus Tucker
6	Pete Peterson	23	Nikki Hopkins
9	Sally Moore	23	Rosalie Kalman
10	Marilyn O'Connor	23	Barbara Kaufmann
12	Carolee Gleim	27	Ed Haas
12	Kassandra Rose	28	Carol Mangiafico

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 God for letting us share in your joy.

God bless you and keep you and shine Christ's light upon you.

With love we sing together happy birthday to you.

TRINITY COLUMBARIUM



Administrative Information

Office Phone: (386) 428-4307

Office E-mail: trinitylutheran485@gmail.com

Trinity website: www.trinitylutheransb.org

Florida-Bahamas Synod www.fbsynod.org

ELCA www.elca.org

COLUMBARIUM NICHE SUBSCRIPTION FEE

MEMBER: \$2000.00

NON-MEMBER \$3000.00

Includes one niche which will hold two urns, a faceplate (to cover 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)

Interim Pastor: Rev. Mark Winkler

Cantor: Brian Larson

Office Administrator: Mary Parada

Custodian: Laura Jones