



**A Newsletter for members of Trinity Lutheran Church
to promote communication of information in the congregation.**

November 2023

Dear Trinity Family,

I apologize for my lateness in getting the newsletter distributed. This is something that I strive to do within the first week of the month. This month I was stumped about what to write. I prayed and waited, and nothing seemed right. During the All-Saints Sunday worship service, I discovered what God was trying to tell me.

As I sat in the pew and listened to the names of those who had passed away read during the service, I was struck by so many emotions. Most obvious was my feeling of sadness and grief as I heard two names of people who I loved that had passed in this last year. As I sat and listened to the names that continued being read, I looked around at everyone around me. I thought of the loss that so many in that room experienced. It felt palpable in some way. It was such a striking common denominator. We are Christians, we are members, associate members, friends, or visitors of Trinity, and we have experienced heart wrenching losses. You all have experienced the soul crushing feeling of losing someone you love so dearly. You have been there, just like I have. As the list changed, I heard names of people who are still living, but being honored. To me, it sounds like a list of warriors battling silent obstacles that we are not aware of. It is also very overwhelming to have someone you care about struggling with something that may be seen or unseen. I could feel the heavy shoulders and heavy hearts of those around me who had loved ones who were fighting private battles. I was surrounded by so much pain, grief, and concern, though I had people sitting all around me with smiles and shining eyes. It truly surprised me at how we as humans can carry so many emotions, but still manage to muster a smile to the outside world. It is in those moments that I felt God's presence. I feel that His arms were outstretched over our congregation that day. He knows our pain, our anguish, our anxieties, and I know that He too feels pain when we feel pain as His children. We do not always understand His timing, or why tragedies happen, but at the end of the day we are His children, and he mourns when we mourn too.

While we continue navigating the Call Process, it is important to remember that each and everyone is fighting a battle or perhaps mourning something privately. I know that we all feel like buoys bouncing along waves without any straight path. We have come so far, yet at times when there are no concrete answers it seems like we have so much farther to go. During these moments, it is important to remember that we are together, and we are not alone. As Thanksgiving approaches, it is important to be thankful for the gift of grace. God gives us grace, and in turn we must give grace to ourselves as well as others.

When we feel our heaviest, God will carry us.

Blessings,
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/>.

We have a list of Call Committee Members! We are waiting for an installation date. More information to come! Please refer to Section 3 of the Transition Manual for more details.

Congregation Retreat

We will have a congregation retreat on Saturday November 18th from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. All are welcome. This retreat will be led by Pastor Jeannine Sweet. This is a part of the Call Process. Please join with an open mind and any questions that you might have! We do ask that you RSVP so that we can have the appropriate number of retreat handouts prepared in advance. Contact the office for more details and to RSVP! Please RSVP by November 15th!

November 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Evy Art Class- 1pm Handbellss- 6 pm Choir- 7 pm	9 Mary Maier Circle Meeting- 11:30 am	10	11	12 Worship- 9:30 am
13	14 Caregivers Support Group- 10:30 am NO MISSION WORKSHOP	15 Evy Art Class- 1pm Handbellss- 6 pm Choir- 7 pm	16 Elizabeth Circle Meeting- 10 am	17	18 Congregation Retreat- 9:00 am- 2:30 pm	19 Worship- 9:30 am
20 Stewardship Meeting- 6 pm	21 Mission Workshop- 9 am Executive Council Meeting- 10 am	22 Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service- 11 am	23 Thanksgiving Holiday	24	25	26 Worship- 9:30 am
27 Halifax Urban Ministries- 10:15 am	28 Mission Workshop- 9 am Council Meeting- 6pm	29 Evy Art Class- 1pm Handbellss- 6 pm Choir- 7 pm	30			

December Dates to Plan Ahead For:

Sunday Dec. 3rd- Wrapping Party after worship Sunday Dec. 24th- Advent 4- 9:30 am

Friday Dec. 8th- Carols by Candlelight- 2 pm Sunday Dec. 24th- Christmas Eve- 4 pm & 7 pm

A Letter from Pastor Mark- A Thanksgiving of Stewardship

Dear Trinity Lutheran Church Family,

I have suggested that each of you wake up, wash your face and remember your baptism by saying to yourself: *"I am a child of God. God loves me. God is using me to change the world."* If you haven't already made this a part of your daily routine, I invite you to begin right now. Say it out loud. Believe the words and embrace the love that God has for you.

God is also using Trinity to be an important part of the community here in New Smyrna Beach. The life and health of this congregation affects the neighborhood where we are located. The simple fact that this church building stands today is a visible example of the faith and hope of those who worship here. It also stands as a symbol of strength for those who merely drive past on their way to somewhere else – a fortress of faith in the God of all the ages.

Trinity Lutheran is now in its 70th year of ministry in New Smyrna Beach. The solid history of this congregation serves as a beacon of light amidst the questionable climate of a vastly changing world. The vision of our forbears – faithful members and stalwart pastors – can be seen in the work carried here out week after week.

What will the next 70 years look like? How will you be a valuable part of the next chapter in the life of Trinity Lutheran Church?

Your generous gifts and offerings to your congregation make it possible for our continued presence in this community. Without your financial support we cannot continue the vision which has been handed on by those who came before us.

I invite you to prayerfully consider what gift you will make for the coming year. Repeat to yourself each day these words that remind you of how important you are in God's kingdom. *"I am a child of God. God loves me. God is using me to change the world."*

Grace upon grace,
~Pastor Mark Winkler

Electric Panels

Trinity went with a new insurance carrier for this year due to the outlandish costs of renewing with the current insurance carrier. The effects of the Hurricane last fall resulted in elevated premiums from insurance companies as a means of combatting the risk that we take just existing in Florida during hurricane season. Something that we were not prepared for was the difference in how this company calculates risk. During an evaluation, we were informed that the electrical panels posed a potential hazard based on residential panels of the same brand having instances of dangerous explosions. To maintain our insurance, they informed us that we must change the panels or risk becoming uninsured. Both options seemed daunting.

Our Property Committee worked tirelessly to have different electric companies evaluate our panels. Each estimate seemed to get more expensive. Those estimates spanned from \$17,000 to \$40,000. While these electrical companies had a great opportunity to gain from our unfortunate situation, each time representatives were very careful to report that the brand of electric panels Trinity has are very safe and in good condition. The residential grade of the same brand has a long history of issues, but that is not true for commercial grade. More than one company was willing to write a statement to the insurance company to inform them of their findings.

The insurance company accepted the statements submitted from the electrical companies. I believe this was God's way of reminding us to have faith in Him and keep moving along. It is important to note a special thank you to Gary Hopkins and Roy Coons. Their dedication to Trinity and their hard work saved us from a very unnecessary and costly expense!

Mission of the Month

For the month of November/December, WELCA is sponsoring a project to help maintain the Spirit of Christmas for children and families in need. Trinity will accomplish this by asking members and friends to donate money or gift cards. Those funds will be used to buy gifts for children in need from Chisholm Elementary and given in the form of gift cards to families in need to cover the cost of holiday dinners for Christmas 2023, Easter 2024 and Thanksgiving 2024.

A wrapping party will be scheduled for **Sunday December 3rd** after worship. You are cordially invited to join to partake in holiday refreshments and fellowship while wrapping gifts for children from Chisholm.

Halifax Urban Ministries

November is the last month of the year that Trinity will be volunteering at HUM for 2023. (Don't worry, we will begin again in January 2024!) Our normal volunteer date for December falls on Christmas day this year. For this reason, we are asking for your help to provide support and assistance for November. If you can volunteer to help serve the meal on **November 27th at 10:15** we truly appreciate your help! Let's close out the year with a wonderful turnout from Trinity! If you have any questions, please contact the office or Gary Hopkins at garyhopkins1951@aol.com for more information.

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.

Thine the Amen, ELW 826, was written by Herbert Brokering while at Holden Village, the retreat center for renewal in the Cascade Mountains near Chelan, Washington. It was the 10th hymn that he wrote in as many days in the summer of 1981. Each morning Walter Bouman led a Bible study, and on the following morning it was reviewed through the singing of a hymn by Brokering, who said, “this hymn is on the great eucharistic theology in Revelation. It was to be then to now.”

*Thine the amen thine the praise
alleluias angels raise
thine the everlasting head
thine the breaking of the bread
thine the glory thine the story
thine the harvest then the cup
thine the vineyard then the cup
is lifted up lifted up.*

*Thine the life eternally
thine the promise let there be
thine the vision thine the tree
all the earth on bended knee
gone the nailing gone the railing
gone the pleading gone the cry
gone the sighing gone the dying
what was loss lifted high.*

*Thine the truly thine the yes
thine the table we the guest
thine the mercy all from thee
thine the glory yet to be*

*then the ringing and the singing
then the end of all the war
thine the living thine the loving
evermore evermore.*

*Thine the kingdom thine the prize
thine the wonder full surprise
thine the banquet then the praise
then the justice of thy ways
thine the glory thine the story
then the welcome to the least
then the wonder all increasing
at thy feast at thy feast.*

*Thine the glory in the night
no more dying only light
thine the river thine the tree
then the Lamb eternally
then the holy holy holy
celebration jubilee
thine the splendor thine the brightness
only thee only thee.*

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



November Birthdays

8	Paula Bernbaum	20	Mary Parada
9	Ralph Snyder	24	Tyler Newell
11	Chuck McCain	25	Peg Buzby
18	Robert Evans	27	Gary Hopkins
20	Eloise Berrian	30	Twila Davis

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

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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