

Trinity Connections

To Know Christ. To Share
Christ.

October 1, 2020

FROM THE PASTOR

In our church directory we find these words on Page 1:

Trinity Lutheran Church is:

A place where those who didn't think they had a place
find a home

A place where we celebrate each other's gifts

A place where we take Scripture seriously

A place where we come together to grow in faith and
love

A place where YOU can belong

These are good words and give us a good description of who we strive to be. But I think we need to change one word to make it really describe us. That word is "place". The church is not a building, but a community of people, bound together by the love, grace, and forgiveness of God, to learn from each other, pray for each other, laugh with each other and cry with each other as we grow together in ministry.

Our call as disciples of Jesus Christ is as ambassadors to the world in which we find ourselves to share the hope that is within us. We are a community, not a place. As beautiful as the structure that is our "headquarters" is it cannot have meaning except through the community that calls it "home". There is great ministry going on right now through Trinity. It is through the people that ministry has always and will always be accomplished.

If we learn anything through this time it is that Trinity Lutheran Church is wherever we are, sharing grace love, forgiveness, and hope.

Pastor Jim

Here Comes the President!

Communication. It sure is a challenge when we don't see each other. However, we are working on it! The TLC board came up with a survey that would provide the membership a way to communicate with the leadership of the church. The evangelism committee was gracious enough to do all of the "legwork" and make all the survey calls. Thanks to everyone who participated. We saw some very common themes, and this is what we are doing about it:

The need for a new/updated directory: In the next week, a draft copy of the directory will be emailed out to all members. Please check that your information is correct and respond to the email with corrections if needed. After two weeks, the final version will be published. If you don't receive email, stop by the office or call and double check your entries. Paper copies of the completed version will be available in the office (and later in the entry way when we return to in-person worship).

The need for communion: This week we will hold a drive by communion. As we wait to reopen, we may schedule more in the future. If you would like to pick up a bag of wafers to use at home with the weekly video services, call the office this week by Thursday at 1:00, and we will prepare one for you to pick up on October 4th.

The need for more communication: There are now once monthly newsletters and also weekly updates (in weeks without a newsletter). Members who do not have email will be mailed a paper copy of these and other important documents. Members are encouraged to email (or mail) submissions of their own to either of these publications.

May God bless us as we continue to worship together in our unusual circumstances.

Julie McIntosh, Council President

Bibles, Books and Beyond

Trinity Lutheran now has a theological library! That library is housed in what was previously the Youth Room (See Picture). The books that you see on the shelves (and there are more books to come) were donated to us by Ruth Ball. Some of you may know Ruth who sometimes serves as Trinity's substitute organist.



Over the years Ruth and her husband, Ivan Ball, gathered an astonishing number of books in their home library. Ruth has donated to Trinity a large number of the books related to biblical studies. Our new collection—while not representative of the most recent research and criticism of the Bible—is a historical collection that would rival or surpass the biblical studies collections in most public libraries. It includes many “classics” in biblical studies as well as multiple commentaries on many books in the Bible.

Special thanks goes to David Hensley who painted and set up Trinity's new library. Dave has also begun to catalogue the books received—and he is very skillful at that task. Thus far he has catalogued over three hundred books by title, author, publication date, publisher, and Library of Congress number. Thank you, David.

In the months ahead the Education Ministry will be discussing how this collection can be used as part of a Ministry of Books that furthers the work of Christ in our community. If you have suggestions or would like to be a part of this discussion, please contact Ann Marie Wagstaff (510-407-4689).

Ann Marie Wagstaff
Education Ministry Chair

God's Work Our Hands

2020

Below is a list of items that are needed for the Blessing Bags that we are putting together for the homeless for Gods Work Our Hands this fall. If you have already purchased items, please call the office during business hours or email and let Lisa know what has already been taken care of. If you have not purchased items and wish to do so, please call the office or email and find out what items are still needed. Thank you. Some of the items we will be collecting are: masks, hand sanitizers (mini size), Band-Aids, bottled water, washcloths, dental hygiene, soap, shampoo/conditioner, comb, Chapstick, water, pen and paper pads. This year we are also going to make half of the bags specifically for women, and therefore we will need donations of small feminine pads that we can include. **The deadline is October 4th.**



**REMINDER -
WORLD
COMMUNION
SUNDAY
OCTOBER 4TH**



On Sunday, October 4th from 1:00pm-3:00pm TLC will hold a drive-thru Communion. You will be able to drive into the parking lot, receive communion and go back home. We will have music playing while Pastor Jim and other volunteers serve Communion. Please plan to come by to receive the Bread of Life. *If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Julie McIntosh at (559) 359-0150.*

ANNUAL BAZAAR

This year, due to the Covid-19 restrictions in place, the Council has decided to cancel the Bazaar. However, we still need someone to take over the organization of it for future events. If you're interested, please let the office know.



New Prayer Concerns

Debbie Rodriguez - for continued healing

Julie's niece - for her to experience God's love and peace during a stressful medical situation, and that the doctors will have wisdom to help her.

Continuing Prayer Concern

Family & Friends of Agnes Larsen - for peace and hope in the Resurrection

Gloria Miller - for healing after minor surgery in Santa Barbara

Julie Elston - for healing and strength. Her kidneys are functioning at 44%. Her doctors say there are things she can do to help fix this so that surgery might not be necessary.

Peggy Holt - for healing and comfort due to health problems

Julie Elston - for continued health concerns

Brian Nelson (Scott Nelson) - for continuing health concerns

La Vida Nueva UMC - for God to prosper our partnership in the gospel

The Sierra-Pacific Synod - for wisdom and a spirit of true fellowship in our shared ministries

Those unable to worship with us:

June Mowles - Sierra Hills

Avis Lindroos - North Dakota

Phyllis Rengstorf - Kaweah Manor, Visalia

The Value of VADS by Michael Carley

Valley Adult Day Services is in trouble. But first, I want to tell you about VADS and what they mean to the Carley family, and hopefully, by extension, the Trinity family.

VADS provides a program that helps people, mostly older adults, who cannot be home alone. They allow their clients to have a greater level of independence than they otherwise might.

Rebecca was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's disease in July 2014 and we checked out VADS' services early on, knowing they might be needed. She started attending once a week in August 2018. Beckie didn't like the idea, but I insisted. I knew we were nearing the time when she shouldn't be home by herself and I wanted her to get used to their program. While she hated the prospect, once inside, she had a good time. She participated in their activities and wasn't sitting at home, anxious about her disease and watching television (she lost her driver's license in 2015). She could have visitors, and did, including some members of TLC.

In November 2018, Beckie had her first seizure, and could no longer be left alone. She started attending VADS Monday through Friday. She was active in their program, drawing, playing piano, singing, and dancing with other participants. Most importantly, she was able to be somewhere safe while I worked. If VADS were not available, I'd have been faced with having Beckie placed in an assisted living facility earlier than we wanted, or quitting my job, which wasn't much of an option.

What VADS gave us was a year and a half. I had a year and a half longer with my wife at home. Our son got a year and a half of memories with his mom. If you spent any time with us, you likely know that these weren't always the easiest of times or the best of memories, but they remain precious. They are what we have left.

The COVID-19 pandemic hit VADS hard. They closed for two months, and upon re-opening, have fewer than half of their previous clients. They had plans to expand to Visalia, but before that, they have to survive the next few months. I have joined the board and we are trying to do what we can to keep things afloat.

If you can contribute to help VADS, please do so at <https://valleyadulldayservices.org/donate/>



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- \$600 of scholarship money was collected this summer. Dagny McIntosh and Katrina Rogers will each be the recipient of a \$300 scholarship for this year.
- La Vida Nueva will be distributing food to the community on Wednesdays and Fridays when there is food available.
- We are in need of one communion server for the drive by communion on October 4th from 12:45-2:15. Call the office to volunteer.
- We need five volunteers to come to the church on Saturday, October 10th starting at 10:00 am with masks and social distancing to pack up the blessing bags. It is estimated to take 1-1 ½ hours to complete. Please call the office to volunteer.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Ernie Rodriguez - 10/1
Debra Rodriguez - 10/2
Richard Zenz - 10/6
Doug McIntosh - 10/13
Pr. Jim Rogers - 10/27
Alice Christianson - 10/30

No Anniversaries this month!

Office Hours:

M-Th 9:00am-1:00pm

Tues: 9:00am - 12:00pm

Office Phone:

(559) 784-4202