

Trinity Connections

To Know Christ. To Share
Christ.

November 1, 2020

FROM THE PASTOR

Philippians 1:3-6 (NRSV)

**³ I thank my God every time I remember you,
⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers
for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel
from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that
the one who began a good work among you will bring it
to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.**

I love this scripture. In those times when it seems nothing is happening and the church as we have always known it seems somehow “thinner” and less substantial as a foundation on which our lives are built because we are separated from each other and the ministries of which we have been a part for so long (many based on personal contact) are struggling to continue with a whole lot of new restrictions which keep them apart from those they feel called to serve, this word from Paul reminds me that God is still at work, in our world, in our community, in our church, and also in us.

Ministry is still happening every day all around us and among us. Trinity is still a place where the love and grace of God shines. It happens not in one location, but in the homes and businesses of God’s people all over the area.

Someday, I hope soon, we will once again meet together, sharing our faith, singing our songs of faith and praise, expressing our needs through our prayers together, joining in shared meals, and receiving God’s grace through communion together as one people, in one place. But, for now, let us rejoice where we are at. God is still at work in our church and in each of us, making each of us more in His image every day.

Pastor Jim

Here Comes the President!

Greetings to all! It sure was good to see so many of you at last month’s communion. We ended up changing it from drive-by to walk through, so the servers did not have to be out in the terrible smoke for two hours. It was so successful, that we are doing another one to kick off Advent on November 29th (see information below) and have decided to keep it inside.

On another matter, the council would like to update you on the state of the budget. First of all, thank you to all of you who have been faithfully giving. We couldn’t do it without you. For the first part of the year we were on budget. Even for the first few months of COVID closure, giving was very close to on budget. The last few months, our giving has started to drop, especially among the occasional givers. Our budget projection for the year through the end of last month was \$90,000. Giving through last month was \$81,949. We are roughly \$8,000 below budget. Currently, we have been economizing, and we are able to pay our bills. However, if this continues, we are going to start having problems. If you are just forgetful, I encourage you to set up your giving in your automatic bill pay if you have it. I know I would never remember without that—especially since we aren’t having services in person right now. If you don’t use automatic bill pay, you can pick up a set up envelopes from the office, and put one with your regular bills so you don’t forget. If it isn’t forgetfulness, I would encourage you to prayerfully consider giving regularly to the church. Not just because of what it does for the church budget, but how it blesses the giver.

God be with you all this month.

Julie McIntosh, Council President

Bibles, Books and Beyond

In Honor of Reformation Sunday—A Book Recommendation (Ann Marie Wagstaff)

There is a story that when Abraham Lincoln met Harriet Beecher Stowe, the abolitionist author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, he said to her, "So here is the woman who wrote the book that started this Great War."

Martin Luther has much in common with Harriet Beecher Stowe. I am not sure I have ever heard Martin Luther described as a "little man," but in the scheme of things, in the time he was living, Martin Luther was a "little man." He was an obscure monk with no official power. And the movement that he founded, and in which he became an essential participant, and later, an elder statesman, was indeed started by a book. Any good Lutheran knows that Luther wrote many important things and many books, but Luther did not write the book that started the Reformation. That book was the Bible. And while Luther did not write that book, he did read it with new eyes, new understanding, and a new heart.

In Luther's day the interpretation of the Bible was left to the scholars and "doctors" of the church. And Luther was steeped in that interpretation. But it was a crisis in his faith that led Luther to literally wipe away the notes in the margins of his Bible and begin to read with fresh eyes and an open heart. And that's where the Spirit entered history to start a new chapter in the life of the Body of Christ.

Certainly many Christians throughout the ages had read and written about the Bible. But Luther gave the church and Christians ever since (including Harriet Beecher Stowe and Abraham Lincoln)—new eyes with which to read the Bible. Using Christ as a lens through which to view all of Scripture, Luther arrived at the five Reformation *Solas*:

By Scripture alone
By faith alone
By grace alone
By Christ alone
Glory to God alone

But Luther did something else as well. Because the Bible played such an essential role in his "conversion" to a new way of seeing and living founded in God's grace, Luther recognized and preached the role and the importance of reading the Bible in the lives of all Christians. His translation of the Bible into German, and the subsequent translation of the Bible into other languages, has been essential to the spread of the Gospel ever since. What Luther and the Reformers accomplished was a realignment and expansion of the reach of Scripture into the hearts and lives of individual Christians—and indeed into Western culture as a whole. That legacy is so deep there is no way to cut it off without cutting ourselves off at the roots.

So in honor of the Reformation, Martin Luther, and the Holy Spirit's movement in our lives—dig deeper roots! Read the Bible!

Ann Marie Wagstaff
Education Ministry Chair

November Walk-Thru Communion

On November 29th from 1:00-2:30pm, we will be having another walk-thru Communion. This will kick off the Advent season!

We need assistants! Please let Julie know if you would like to help with any aspect of helping serve Communion - set up, clean up, serving, etc.

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

No new prayer concerns

Continuing Prayer Concern

Debbie Rodriguez - for continued healing

Gloria Miller - for continued healing

Peggy Holt - for healing and comfort due to health problems

Julie Elston - for continued health concerns

Brian 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 Family Crisis Center



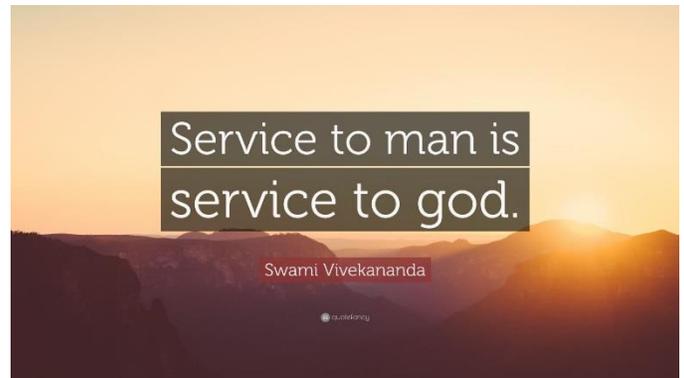
The Family Crisis Center is a multicultural organization that exists to protect individuals and families from domestic violence and economic deprivation by providing food, shelter, education, and other charitable services. We have been serving victims of domestic violence and homelessness since 1977.

It is the Family Crisis Center's vision to develop programs and offer services that most effectively meet the demand and distinctive needs of its homeless/domestic violence clients, at risk families and their children. The organization has skilled staff, board members and funding resources to support its ongoing programs and facility needs.

The Family Crisis Center's programs are funded by grants and by generous community donations. We are currently in need of the following donations: monetary, food vouchers, razors, tampons, full size shampoo and full size conditioner.

By making a donation, you have the power to change lives and play a part in ending domestic violence, making our community a safer place for all. At the Family Crisis Center, your donations help provide more than a safe place to stay for families fleeing unhealthy relationships. Your tax-deductible gifts allow us to provide invaluable resources to survivors and their children, like counseling, legal advocacy, education, and art therapy. You can give the gift of a brighter tomorrow.

Monetary donations accepted on our website through PayPal at <http://ccfamilycrisis.org/donate-now/> or by mailing a check made out to Family Crisis Center, P.O. Box 2033, Porterville, CA 93258. For in-kind donations, please contact Andrea Morales, HR-Outreach Director at amorales@ccfamilycrisis.org or 559-781-7462 ext 109.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Thank you to June Mowles for doing such a great job being the new Sunshine Lady! Your cards have been greatly appreciated.

- Brian Nelson has officially retired as our church Custodian! TLC would like to thank Brian for his many, many years of service and everything he has done for the church and our members. We will continue to pray for your continued health and peace. Happy Retirement, Brian!



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sally Hillman	11/1
Phyllis Rengstorf	11/1
Don Anderson	11/4
Kay Anderson	11/14
Lois Swaney	11/15
Lucas Carley	11/18
Nancy Chadwell	11/28
Ernie & Debbie Rodriguez	11/28

Office Hours:
M-Th 9:00am-1:00pm
Tues: 9:00am - 12:00pm

Office Phone:
(559) 784-4202