

Trinity Tidings 2020

September

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From the Pastor's Pen



Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed...

*Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed...
After [Jesus] had dismissed [the crowds], he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was [still] there alone.*

~ Mark 1:35, Luke 5:16, Matthew 14:23

Last month, Pastor Elana and I took a “vacation” – our first for 2020, and our first ever “staycation,” enjoying the opportunities to be at home without other responsibilities. During the week, however, I spent a day alone, backpacking and hiking over at Robbers’ Cave State Park. It has been years since I was able to go on a backpacking trip, and I had forgotten just how spiritual it can be to spend time alone in nature.

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Pastor's Pen cont.

Now, I know that it seems weird to be craving alone time during a pandemic – after all, isn't that what we experience all the time? But being able to intentionally withdraw into nature, to spend time hiking and praying, is a very different experience from being socially distanced. It was a time of recharging, of reconnecting with God – and of experiencing God's presence in the wonders of creation and the joy of discovering what's around the next bend.

During the night, when the chorus of frogs and cicadas were doing their best to drown out any other sounds, I decided to sing back to them. I sang the songs on my heart – starting with the Gloria Patri and Doxology, winding through “Our God is an Awesome God” and “Be Thou my Vision,” and ending with the Scouting favorite, *Taps*. “Day is done – gone the sun - from the lakes, from the hills, from the sky. All is calm! Safely rest. God is nigh.”

All four gospels remark on Jesus' tendency to need to spend time alone in the wilderness – and not just the 40 days we talk about in Lent! Whether he went out for a day trip (Luke 6:12-13), or took a boat across the lake (Matthew 14:13), or even hiked for five days on his own, from Galilee to Jerusalem (John 7:10), Jesus took time by himself quite often. When things get overwhelming for us, even socially distanced and isolated as we are, maybe we can follow Jesus' example and spend time intentionally in prayer and connection with God. You don't have to go up a mountain, or out onto a lake – maybe take a walk through a park, or a garden. Sing a song, if you feel one on your heart, or just sit and feel God's presence with you.

And then, once your connection with God is rekindled, be sure to return to living life with the love you've learned. Be willing to reach others, to share the light that lives in you. For while Jesus went away into the wilderness, he always returned to teach and preach, to heal and feed, to laugh and cry with his close friends and with the crowds that wanted to see him.

Hopefully, we'll be able to soon worship together, in person, again. Until then, share your light through phone calls and notes, emails and video calls. And know that you are loved, in the wilderness or at home, by God and by each of us at Trinity.

~ Pastor Lucus



The Trinity Bell Choir is hard at work practicing for some new ensemble presentations, once we can worship in person again. Looking forward to that!

Rally Day Communion

This year for Rally Day, we wanted to do something special and different for communion. We know not everyone can be with us to share our 'one loaf, one cup, one fellowship.' So, the pastors and the worship team will be working together to make homemade bread and deliver it to anyone who won't be able to join our heavenly feast in person. That way, we can taste and see that the Lord is good, sharing this blessing together no matter how far apart we are.

If you would like to receive homemade bread for this special communion, please call the church office **(918-369-3690)** or pastor Lucus **(248-845-8287)** to let us know. We will also be calling folks to make sure that everyone who wants some of this bread will be able to take part. Christ's Table feels like it's getting bigger and bigger all the time :)



"Alright, does everyone have sound?"



Monthly Liturgy

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time —Sept. 6

Exod. 12:1-14;
Psalm 149;
Romans 13:8-14;
Matthew 18:15-20.

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Sept. 20

Exod. 16:2-15;
Psalm 105;
Phil. 1:21-30;
Matthew 20:1-16.

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Sept. 13

Exod. 14:19-31;
Psalm 114;
Romans 14:1-12;
Matthew 18:21-35.

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Sept. 27

Exod. 17:1-7;
Psalm 78:1-4;
Phil. 2:1-13;
Matthew 21:23-32



Trinity Family:

After fourteen days of new COVID-19 cases falling in Tulsa County, the Session has voted to allow Phase 3 (in-person worship inside the church)! Assuming that new cases remain flat or continue falling, we hope to resume indoor worship at 10:30 on September 6.

These services will be modeled on the prayer services we've been holding outdoors - there will be assigned seating from ushers, masks will be required, and there will not be vocal music for the time being. Children and youth are welcome to worship in the sanctuary, and very young children are welcome to play outside on the playground with adult supervision (provided), though there will not be indoor Sunday school at this time.

Online worship will continue as well, for those who are not yet able to return to in-person worship. Virtual Sunday School will continue at 9:15 as it has all Summer long.

Trinity's Session has also put into place contingency plans for future spikes in cases. If the 7-day average of new cases trends upwards, we will move the service outside, following the outside protocol (phase 2.5) until it is safe to move inside again.

Thank you for your encouragement and care during all of this uncertainty.
We are doing everything we can to remain a safe place to worship and serve.

Fellowship

John Clawson

Well there is not much to talk about from the Fellowship team right now so the following are some random thoughts on blessings and hope.

Past Fellowship

Dana & I were comparing her time as the Fellowship team leader vs. my current experience. Back in the day, Dana and her team were very busy organizing a number of Fellowship events including Italian night and the infamous Taco night (if you haven't heard the story then ask a long time Trinity member to tell it to you because it's pretty hilarious). My pledge to our Trinity Family is that when we can celebrate in-person Fellowship events together, we will make it extra special and create some new, lasting memories.

Celebrating Trinity's Young Adults

This morning I was so excited to see that Kelsey Johnson got into Medical school and today is Kate Hanson's 27th birthday. I started reminiscing about all of the great times we had when our Trinity young adults were growing up in our church. So we plan on featuring a Trinity young adult each month in a newsletter article (starting next month). We'll let you all know where they are in their life and maybe have them share some of their memories from our past Trinity Youth Group adventures.

Miss you and love you all very much. Call or text me if you need anything.

John Clawson
918-625-2580



Notes from our Congregation

"Thank you for the bulletins, newsletters and copies of the Sermons!
I appreciate it so very much." ~Evelyn Fenton

****If you'd like copies of the newsletter,
sermons and/or bulletins sent to you
via US Mail rather than electronically,
please let the church office know!**

Christian Education

Katie Hanson

Hey Friends!

The school year is starting for our kiddos and teachers! Whether it is distance learning, in person learning, or a combination of both, our adventure has begun!

Rally day is set for September 13th. We will be celebrating our students and teachers at the in-person worship service and online. We need your help! Please send your first day of school pictures to trinity@olp.net so that we can compile them into a slideshow! We've also got some fun gifts to hand out as we celebrate our amazing kids/teachers!

Because we aren't all back to in-person worship, but we still want to keep everyone involved, the Christian Education team has come up with a fun way to keep everyone engaged! Below is a list of first names of the students and teachers in our church. Everyday, we ask that you pick a person to pray over. You can pray using the prayer below or one you create on your own.

“Leah” “John” “Luke” “Alec”

“Miley” “Maggie” “Maverick”

“Mitchell” “Matthew” “Seve”

“Kira” “Sela” “Roriayn” “Victoria”

“Ainsley” “Winry” “Amelia” “Lily”

“Christian” “Kaiden” “Kamden”

“Sophia” “Sawyer” “Dusty”

“Spencer” “Melanie” “Valerie”

“Cathy” “Katie” “Millie” “Richard”

A PRAYER FOR OUR STUDENTS

DEAR GOD,
THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF
EDUCATION IN EVERY FORM.
AS OUR CHILDREN PREPARE TO START A NEW YEAR
MAY CONFIDENCE BE THEIR FOUNDATION,
MAY GRACE BE THEIR GUIDE AND
MAY HOPE BE THEIR COMPASS TOWARD A BRIGHT FUTURE.
I PRAY THEY WOULD HAVE EYES TO SEE
THE NEEDS OF THOSE AROUND THEM
AND A HEART TO LOVE WELL.
MAY THEY FACE EACH DAY WITH POSITIVITY
KNOWING THAT NO MATTER
WHAT COMES THEIR WAY,
THEY DO NOT HAVE TO FACE IT ALONE.
AMEN

GRACEFORMOMS.COM

Just So You Know.....

If you are asked for a password for a Zoom meeting, it is 3690.

All zoom activities can be accessed by calling (346) 248-7799, or by clicking the links.

Book study meets at 11:00 a.m. on Wed.

We are reading "Christ in Crisis" by Jim Wallis.
Wednesday Book Study

- Zoom ID: 574 918 100

Sunday School @ 9:15am

- Zoom ID: 949 009 659

Sunday In-person Worship Service

@ 10:30am

- Zoom ID: 461 099 161

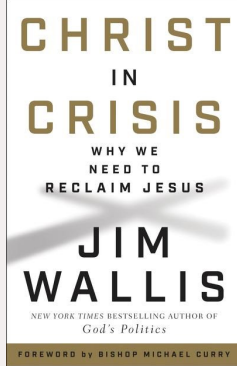
Also good to know.....

◆ Session approved at its last meeting, (*contingent on COVID cases continuing to fall or remain flat in Tulsa County*) moving to **indoor worship starting September 6 at 10:30**. We'll keep pre-recording the online service for those who don't feel comfortable coming in person.

◆ **Rally Day is Sept 13** - We will be having virtual communion! Please let the church office (918-369-3690) or Pastor Lucus (248-845-8287) know if you'd like a loaf of homemade bread (made by Pastor Elana!) delivered to your home so you can participate with us!

Also, we will be having a virtual blessing of backpacks and laptops, so if you'd like yours included, please send the church office a picture!

◆ Our Recycle Bin has been moved to the south-east corner of the parking lot, away from the adjacent neighborhood. Please continue to utilize our community recycling bin!

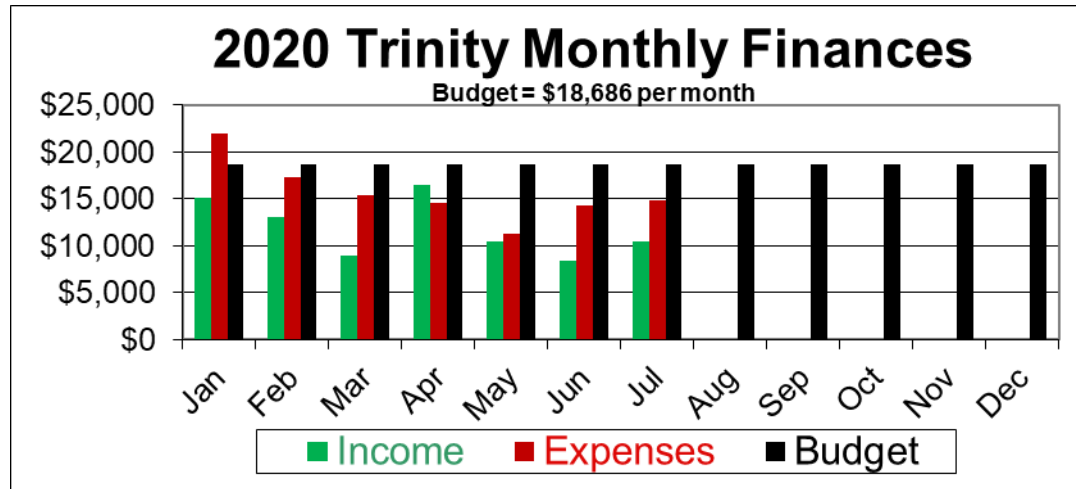


Midweek Book Study

This month, we continue with our book, "Christ in Crisis", by Jim Wallis. We continue to have our meetings via Zoom, so if you want to join in, let us know and we can send you the link information! It's always available in the This Week at Trinity as well, so we hope to "see" you all each Wednesday morning in September at 11:00 am!

Stewardship & Finance

Grant Kessler



2020 YTD

Income

\$82,775

Expenses

\$109,584

Budget

\$224,226



Don't forget about our Blessing Box located at the front entrance of the church! "Give what you can and Take what you need."

- | | |
|-----------------|------|
| Larry Wagner | 9/1 |
| Beth Keppel | 9/4 |
| Jackie Ballew | 9/9 |
| Richard Spencer | 9/9 |
| Kira Smith | 9/12 |
| Larry Boxum | 9/18 |
| Brenda Maxey | 9/18 |
| Brad Byers | 9/24 |
| Evelyn Fenton | 9/30 |

Trinity Garden

Come out and see what our Community Garden has to offer! Bring a sack and take what you need!

Thanks to all who continue to care for and nurture this wonderful community garden!



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Communion 10:30 am Worship In-person/ online	7 LABOR DAY Church office closed	8	9 11:00 am Mid-week book study via zoom 6:30 pm Bells	10	11	12
13 RALLY DAY 10:30 am Worship In-person/ online	14	15	16 11:00 am Mid-week book study via zoom 6:30 pm Bells	17	18	19
20 10:30 am Worship In-person/ online Session Mtg.	21	22	23 11:00 am Mid-week book study via zoom 6:30 pm Bells	24	25	26
27 10:30 am Worship In-person/ online	28	29	30 11:00 am Mid-week book study via zoom 6:30 pm Bells			

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