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# TRINITY TIDINGS

## SEPTEMBER, 2011

### TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Used by God to feed Christ's sheep and grow His church

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## WHAT DO WE DO WITH FEAR?

### A Message from Pr Jacqui

Scaredy cat! Scaredy cat! Chicken!!! These are names that people are sometimes called when they let fear get the best of them. We are all afraid of something. These days with the economy being down, wars all around the globe, and cancer seeming to run rampant, how can we not be at least a little afraid of what tomorrow may bring? As the pastor, I have to say, read your Bible, Philippians 4:6, "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." If only repeating a few lines from a book could protect us from harm!

Recently I was asked how I handle fear. I wish I could have responded, "I don't get scared. I live in the conviction of Jesus; I fear no evil." That would be theoretical mumbo jumbo. I fear. I have many fears. What if Larry doesn't come home, what if one of my girls gets caught up in drug addiction, what if I lose my ability to communicate effectively? What if Trinity doesn't get on solid financial footing? What if???? And my response is that I handle fear with the Dr Phil method. I answer the *what if*, with *then what*. Not to be flippant but, whatever happens, we just handle it. "We" means God and the grace God gives me to live in this world. I have fear, but I believe God's got this. God is with me, God is good. We must believe that God has got this or what's the point? Why call ourselves Christians? Why come to church? We cannot live in fear; we cannot simply ask, what if. We must boldly go forth and let God handle all. What if Trinity closes? What if we use all the endowment funds? What if, after all we have been through, people still get frustrated and leave, never to return? Then we must keep going. We must keep believing. We must continue to have faith and know that God is good, all the time!

We must live our lives in the confidence and assurance that we can get through all that comes at us from the world. We are people of the Word in the world. We impact the world; the world does not impact us. Trinity Lutheran Church has been doing God's will for over 60 years; why stop now? Now is the time for us to more clearly decide how God will continue to have us present ourselves in this world. We have achieved much in the last year. Some of the things and events that have been milestones for us are: new members, confirmation students, nursery care during worship, Sunday school, Crop Walk, Souper Bowl of Caring. There is more and yet what else can we do?

We are more than just nice people who get together on Sunday. We are people who know that following Christ means we have to go places we have never been before. We are people who are willing to reach out and touch other people who may seem untouchable. We are people who are willing to do whatever it takes to have God's will done here on earth. We are not afraid of Trinity closing. We have come too far to not be able to pay the bills now. This is not about being financially fearful. This is about, not "this" but "we" are about making every action we take be about God and for God. This is about showing up on Sunday because truly, there is no place else you would rather be. We are about being disciples of Christ.

Over the next couple of weeks we must decide what will be our ministry focus as a church. What is the one outreach we can get behind and support and see through to the end? What are we willing to stake our reputation on? What will the grandchildren of the little ones who now go to Sunday school here say about Trinity Lutheran Church? Or are we afraid to ask? We have everything to gain by being that church, that church that wasn't afraid to try, that church that is willing to show God to the world!



## FINANCIAL UPDATE

From Noreen Baldwin, Congregational President

Your Church Council has promised to keep you abreast of church business. It is felt that an update on our finances is in order. Below please find a summary of the monthly bills that Trinity pays out. It is critical that we realize that a minimum of \$13,120 goes out in expenses every month. This includes the monthly expenses as well as the average monthly expenses of items we pay annually, quarterly and bi-monthly, such as insurance, etc. We are walking a bit of a tightrope with our finances and are trying to not dig too deeply into the Endowment Fund money in order to make it last.

We ask that all members of Trinity please honor their pledges. Take a second to look at your June 30 financial statement; compare your pledge amount to your giving amount and see if you're on track. And remember... please give when you're gone!

As stated at the forum on August 21<sup>st</sup>, the good news is that our attendance is up approximately 15 people per Sunday over 2010, and our giving is up about \$400 per Sunday over 2010. This is encouraging. It also allows us to look at improving our programming over the next year.

Above all, always put Trinity in your prayers.

<b>ITEM (MONTHLY)</b>	<b>MONTHLY EXPENSE</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
payroll	6,113.62	3 times a month twice a year
mortgage	2,667.00	covered by Endowment Fund for now
pastor's pension	642.63	
federal withholding taxes, FICA	800.00	
electricity	1,284.00	
gas	40.00	higher in winter, up to \$100
water	65.00	average, varies monthly
telephones	223.00	
trash pickup	150.00	
exterminator	64.00	
copier lease	220.00	
property insurance	481.40	(for 10 months, Sep-Jun)
 <b>ITEM (OTHER THAN MONTHLY)</b>		
devotionals (Upper Room)	0.00	covered by donation (\$60.10 bi-monthly)
copier maintenance agreement	61.67	(monthly equivalent)
state withholding taxes	80.00	(monthly equivalent)
workman's comp	106.92	(monthly equivalent)
copyrights for music	9.08	(monthly equivalent)
offering envelopes	27.92	(monthly equivalent)
payroll updates (for QuickBooks)	35.00	(monthly equivalent)
membership/contributions program	15.83	(monthly equivalent)
checks	12.50	(monthly equivalent)
fire safety inspection (mandatory)	20.00	(monthly equivalent)
 <b>total monthly requirement</b>	 <b>13,119.57</b>	

Additional occasional expenses include altar guild supplies, office supplies (including stamps), and custodial and maintenance supplies.

# SUMMARY OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

July 12, 2011

Pastor's Report The Concordia Charter School proposal is currently on hold while the school deals with some state mandates. General comments about the Bible study format for the sermon series in June were mostly positive. We need to remind people to include in their personal prayers the prayer found in the bulletin each week. We also need additional people to contribute to that Prayer Focus. Pr Jacqui is considering having a "prayer bowl".

Secretary's Report The June minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report Although attendance and giving have increased gradually from last year, we are still over \$12,000 behind in income from what was projected. \$2667 was taken from the Endowment Fund money to cover the June mortgage. Ruth is able to pay bills and cover payroll, but we are just getting by. There were no volunteers for Adopt a Ministry this year. The report was approved, subject to audit.

Congregational needs (wish list) when funds are available:

Nursery attendant

Confirmation supplies (a parishioner donated funding)

Increase Pr Jacqui's hours from 30 to 40 hours per week

Food pantry replenishment—A major donor to our emergency food pantry has moved out-of-state.

There is a box in the narthex to receive donations from the congregation. Monetary donations may be made to the Good Sam fund.

Paid Music Director

Paid Youth Director—More structured educational and social activities for children and youth are needed if we want to attract new families. Our current Sunday school teachers are wonderful, but their time is limited. Fundraising or donations are needed for any planned activities.

Sound system renovation

Discussed ideas for raising revenue besides weekly offering:

Pr Jacqui pointed out our priority needs to be making disciples for Christ, not raising money.

Grow our church—current members, invite people to church

Rent our facility during the week—consider what the charge should be, possible damage and wear-and-tear to facility, custodial needs

Advertise Sunnyslope businesses in our bulletin

Parish Nurse Report Thanks you to Jo for her continued service to our church and community. Please continue to support her in your prayers and donations to the parish nurse fund.

## Old Business

- A. Background checks: Through DPS, the cost would be about \$63. Council voted unanimously to pay for a background check and fingerprinting for a nursery attendant.
- B. Nursery: Volunteers are currently staffing the nursery. Council voted unanimously to actively pursue hiring an attendant for \$20 per week to cover the nursery from 9:15 to 11:15 Sunday mornings. Pr Jacqui will ask neighboring churches with different service times to advertise the position.
- C. Website: The Geek Force is now working on our website for free. Jacqui is reviewing content and will share with council.
- D. Mission statement: Discussed ideas for a new mission statement to better identify what Trinity stands for. Our worship, education, programs, and outreach should comply with that mission. Vision statements will be developed later to further define how we will live out our mission. Mission statement ideas:
  - Pray. Feed. Love
  - Loved by God, serving one another
  - Come, give, be fulfilled
  - Faith, Active in Love
  - Joyful disciples feeding God's people in mind, body, and spirit

Thanks and recognition to

Lane, Wally and “the guys” for getting the electrical box rebuilt at minimal cost, and keeping our property in good shape

The Golos for their June 27 party celebrating being in the US for five years

The Dando family for funding the 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic

Georgia for her coordination of social activities

Susan and Keith Miller for donating a gas grill

The next council meeting will be Tuesday, August 9, 2011.

This is a synopsis of the council minutes. If you would like a full copy, please contact Ruth in the church office.



## **SUMMARY OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**August 9, 2011**

Pastor's Report Pr Jacqui purchased a much-needed new office chair with money from a special fund. On September 11, 12, and 13, she will attend a Journey of Renewal retreat at Spirit in the Desert. The Synod is financing part of the cost, with \$100 coming out of Trinity's Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Pr Jacqui met with Margaret from Concordia Middle School; they are still interested in working with us but have some issues to resolve first. Next Thursday, August 18, Pr Jacqui will attend the Capital Conference youth meeting.

Secretary's Report The July minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report July has been a difficult month. Payment of quite a few bills had to be delayed, but all were paid before finance charges were incurred. Ruth took the full amount of the mortgage for July's payment out of the Endowment Fund money, and may need to do the same in August. In the next newsletter, Noreen will itemize expenses (mortgage, salaries, insurance, electric bill, etc) so the congregation can see where the money goes. It's important for people to keep up their pledges, even when they are on vacation. People need to understand that they need to commit to the support of Trinity. Attendance and giving have gradually increased over last year. This report was approved, subject to audit.

Parish Nurse Report As always, Jo is truly a blessing to this congregation. As her health condition changes, she may need assistance from the congregation with some of her duties, like visitation and communion to the homebound.

### Old Business

- A. Nursery: The position was advertised to the Capital conference churches. We may consider using the Arizona Lullaby Guild at a cost of \$12 per hour, minimum of four hours per week plus \$7 for transportation. They will do background checks.
- B. Mission statement: Will be discussed at the next congregational forum. We have at least five ideas.
- C. Website: Was supposed to be up, but has been delayed due to problems with transferring emails accounts. It should be completed soon.

### New Business

- A. Congregational Project will be determined after a mission statement is chosen.
- B. Job descriptions for staff are being reviewed; they haven't been updated in over seven years.
- C. We are going to try the local florist, Wild Bunch Flowers, for \$40 per week and no delivery charge.

Thanks and recognition to

Sah Fayah and other Liberian members for providing food, prayer, music, and information on Liberian Free Day

Margaret Rude for her conscientious, caring letter regarding pledges in the mid-year statements  
Rita Larned for her fabulous job filling in as pianist on July 24  
All who assisted on Rally Day, especially Ute Wilfong and her family for their organization of the children's activities

The next council meeting will be Tuesday, September 13, 2011.

This is a synopsis of the council minutes. If you would like a full copy, please contact Ruth in the church office.



## CAUGHT YOU CARING

The following names were cited for performing random acts of kindness during the past two months. Thanks to all who took the time to recognize others. A random selection was made and a small token of appreciation was given. Each act gives honor and glory to God as we reach out to others in His name. Please, fill out your slips; let's keep this program going!!!

- Charles Artis and Elaine Thompson — for filling in when needed for the Tuesday/Thursday food pantry and monthly food distribution
- Lois Lowery — for filling in at the last minute for intercessions on 7-3-11
- Lane Doolittle — for the compassion and caring he demonstrated for a puppy abandoned on the church property
- Rowena Zenk — for continuing to write prayers for the weekly Prayer Focus
- Rita Larned — for filling in as accompanist on 7-25-11
- Noreen and Steve Baldwin — for the effort to help find a new florist
- Florence Saltsmen and her sister Pat — for the generous donation of hotdogs for Rally Sunday
- The Cook family — for hosting the end of summer pool party and for donations to Rally Sunday
- Rowena Zenk and Lois Lowery — for their continued outreach and welcome to new and returning Sunday visitors
- Ute Wilfong and Laurie Schulz — for the great job in delivering the children's sermons during the summer
- Ute Wilfong — for the effort and energy she expended in promoting, coordinating, and working to make the children's activities at Rally Sunday such a success
- Eileen Schott — for her hard work in cleaning the kitchen and candle holders

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## 2011 MEMORIAL GIFTS

We acknowledge memorial gifts  
donated to Trinity Lutheran Church.

Given in memory of Denise Montayne by  
Rowena Zenk

Given in memory of Irene Sjulestad by  
Evan and Judy Davies  
Mary Dickman  
Chuck and Lois Lowery  
Ruth Texidor  
Rowena Zenk

Memorial donations are used for various  
ministries and are greatly appreciated.

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**Have a safe and fun  
Labor Day weekend!!**

