



# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Experiencing and  
Sharing Jesus

---



*Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.  
7 For God is the King of all the earth,  
sing to him a psalm of praise. Psalm 47:6-7, NIV*

701 East Florida Avenue, Urbana Illinois 61801-5950 – Phone: 217-367-8923

Pastor Shawn Boylan – [pastorshawn@trinity-urbana.org](mailto:pastorshawn@trinity-urbana.org)

Please join us online to worship every Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

[trinity-urbana.org](http://trinity-urbana.org)

Dear Trinity Members and Friends in Christ,

It's helpful in stressful times to know that you have a friend who will stand by you. We're all learning to do things very differently now that COVID-19 has changed our world. Though we are experiencing many disruptions to what was normal life, there are some important things that will never change. Christ's love, for example, will never change. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. Nothing can stop God's love; and my heart to share God's love with you doesn't stop. I just have to do this differently than I did before.



In a relatively short period of time, everything we do has changed! At the beginning of March, we were attending worship services as normal, but now through May, we will continue to meet weekly online. If you go to our church website, [trinity-urbana.org](http://trinity-urbana.org), you'll find connection details. Church used to be busy with meetings and fellowships. Now it's quiet. We're open from 10AM to 2PM daily, but there's not a lot of traffic. Zoom has become our meeting place. We still have facetime, but it's not really in person—it's virtual. Who would have thought that things could change so fast and so abruptly?

Change is hard though. We don't like change. Here's an excerpt from a letter to then President Jackson dated January 31, 1829:



As you may know, Mr. President, 'railroad' carriages are pulled at the enormous speed of 15 miles per hour by 'engines' which, in addition to endangering life and limb of passengers, roar and snort their way through the countryside, setting fire to crops, scaring the livestock and frightening women and children. The Almighty certainly never intended that people should travel at such breakneck speed.

-Martin Van Buren, Governor of New York

What happens is that we see the problems of a current situation as greater than our God who is our constant and faithful strength in all situations. If you can't stop change, the challenge is to plant yourself in that which can't change—it takes faith to see that. If our whole life was crystal clear, which for some reason we feel we have the right to, we wouldn't need to be saved by faith.

The reason I'm pointing this out is so that you can begin to understand the challenge that is before us not only with COVID-19, but with our whole lives. These current stresses and changes are simply opportunities for us for to grow stronger in trusting Christ. God is challenging us—He's challenging you and me. You can see the benefits that follow in a couple of ways. One, we learn to routinely and personally cast our cares upon the Lord Jesus. The benefit of this is that our faith becomes more than a service we offer God. It becomes a life of daily dependence on our Savior. As our hearts are changed by this daily dependence, a hopeful peace pervades our lives. This challenge, to lay down everything and to trust in God alone, is greater than any other challenge that this life brings.

James opens his epistle reminding people of the importance of seeing life rightly through eyes of faith:

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. <sup>4</sup> Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. <sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you” James 1:2-5 (NIV)

Good times, bad times, all are in God's timing to make us stronger in Christ.

Blessing in Jesus,



---

Dear Trinity Members,

The new “Stay-At-Home” order, published on 4/30/2020, now allows us to leave our homes in order to “engage in the free exercise of religion”.

We are getting ready, at church, to offer worship services which will include Holy Communion. This is just a small step in getting back to “normal”. There are changes we have to make for everyone's safety in compliance with our state government (meeting in groups of 10 people or less, and social distancing). It will be different, in many ways, from what we were used to, but we are so thankful to our loving Father for this, as well as for our online worship services and Bible studies. In all things God is working for our good!

- Starting Wednesday, May 6th, we will have our appointment system in place. We'll have two ways for you to make an appointment:
- Go to our church website, [trinity-urbana.org](http://trinity-urbana.org). You'll see the link on the home page slider or look under Spiritual Life on the top menu.
- You can also call the church office from 10AM-2PM, M-F, and Mike will make an appointment for you.

May the Lord Jesus watch over you and keep you in His love. I look forward to fellowshiping together.









## Wee Disciples Preschool News

Wee Disciples Preschool is currently offering registration for the 2020-21 school year. The registration fee is \$75. If you know of any families with preschool age children who may be interested in our preschool program, please share with them that they can register at any time. Registration forms and program brochures are available right outside the preschool classroom and more information about our program is available on our website at [www.trinity-urbana.org](http://www.trinity-urbana.org).

Due to the Coronavirus-19 Pandemic and a mandate by the Governor of Illinois, Wee Disciples Preschool is closed for the rest of the 2019-20 school year. During this time of no school, I have been busy sending daily activities to families via email, chatting with students individually via Zoom, holding class Zoom meetings, completing a Drive-by Hello to students, and planning for a pick up of student belongings the first week of May. It has been a challenging time, but it has been really rewarding staying connected to our Wee Disciples students and families. I pray that our Wee Disciples Preschool family and the Trinity Lutheran Church Family will remain healthy and safe. I hope everyone finds comfort in the love of God and the knowledge that He will watch over us.

May is a time of endings and the start of new beginnings. As we come to an end of the 2019-20 school year, I want to congratulate our Wee Disciples students who are moving on to Kindergarten in the Fall. Katelynn, Elliot, Matthew, Tobin, Tom, Josephine, Caleb, Samantha, Valerie, and Austin, we are so proud of how you have grown at Wee Disciples Preschool. We will also miss Jason and James who are moving on to other preschool programs in the Fall. Several students, August, Toby, Theodore, Rhiannon, Leila, Lucas, and Lydia will return for another year with us in the 2020-21 school year. Our long time Teaching Assistant, Karen Ross, is stepping down from her position in May. She is moving on to new challenges as a substitute Teaching Assistant in Urbana District 116 schools. Mrs. Ross has been such an asset to our preschool program for 10 years. Please pray for her success and happiness. Julie Elsts will be taking over Karen Ross' position next school year. We are so grateful for her continued commitment to our program.

God's Blessings,  
**Karen Rohrer,**  
Director and Teacher

---

## Pieces of Love

Hello everyone! God's blessings to you all.

The Pieces of Love quilting ladies have been busy, busy! Carrie and Mary Jo have completed somewhere around 10 quilt tops. Now we are waiting for the all clear to get back together to tie and bind. We have been so blessed with Thrivent Action Team funds. One Action team purchased the needed batting for 16 quilts. Another action fund has purchased 16 beautifully bright colored sheets and a few other notions needed.

Oh, the moment we can get back together, I can't wait to see the beautiful work they have been doing.

We are still looking for donations of queen or king flat sheets. Although we have the fixings for 16 works of art, we still have another 15 in the waiting.

May you always see that God smiles upon you each and every day.....

---

### Update from Watoto Ministries

You may remember the Watoto Children's Choir who came from Uganda to visit Trinity in June of 2018. The children shared with us a beautiful Christian concert with singing and dancing. Our church was packed with members and visitors. Many people gave offerings or sponsored orphans who are cared for by Watoto ministries.

We had another concert scheduled for May 9, 2020, but when all of the social distancing measures (because of COVID-19) started going into place, they cancelled their concert tours and recalled their children's choirs worldwide. Please continue to pray for Watoto. We will schedule another concert when it is safe to do so.



#### **Trinity Small Groups and Bible Studies**

Some of Trinity's Small Group and Bible Studies continue to meet. Here's a list of leader contact details.

- Pastor Shawn & Jill—Thursdays at 7pm on Zoom. Contact Jill: [jill@boylansweb.net](mailto:jill@boylansweb.net)
- Pastor Ehlers' Tuesday Morning Bible Study may be able to start up again too! We're working out the detail under the new "Stay-At-Home" order
- LWML-WIM will not meet in May
- Cottage Bible Study will not meet in May

Please reach out to your individual group leader if you have further questions or contact the church office at 217-367-8923.





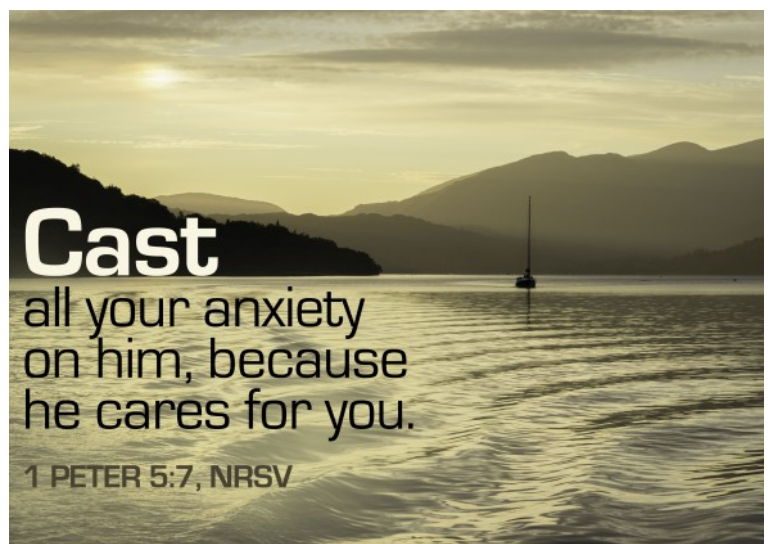
## MAY Birthdays

05/01	Brittany Ashmore
	Sadie Tsiakals
05/04	Fredrick Holhubner Jr.
05/05	Scott Striker
05/06	Phyllis Johnston
05/08	Pamela Hull
	Landon Summers
	Silas Wetherell
05/09	Dennis Kane
05/11	Dave Summers
	Nicholas Tsiakals
05/12	Jessica Dickson
	Micah Lange
05/12	Faith Wetzell
05/13	Mary Stremming
	Lucia Wetherell
05/14	Doug Bull
	Kathy Bull
05/22	Michael Murphy
05/23	Juanita Steer
05/24	Phyllis Mennenga
	Rick Rodriguez
05/25	Damani McWilliams
05/26	Pamela Hahn
05/27	Melissa Matthews
05/28	Pastor Shawn
	Sandy Fitzgerald
05/29	Senait Stifanos

## MAY Anniversaries

05/03	Dave & Skeeter Summers (40 years)
05/21	Richard & Carrie Kubetz (43 years)
05/23	Bill & Ruth Benton (49 years)
05/25	Michael Ducey & Janet Boerngen (35 years)

For the Month of April			
Date	Attendees	Communion	Offerings
04/05	N/A	N/A	N/A
04/12	N/A	N/A	N/A
04/19	N/A	N/A	N/A
04/26	N/A	N/A	N/A
		April Offerings	\$27,175
YTD Receipts			\$89,030
Copies of Trinity's monthly income, expenses and full budget breakdown are in the Narthex and updated each month.			



### 2020 Trinity Vacation Bible School Update!

After much prayerful thought and discussion among the Trinity leadership, we decided to **not** have VBS this year. We didn't think that any of the online solutions would be a good choice. Additionally, it's impossible to forecast the social distancing restrictions and group size limitations that might be in place through the summer

### Haiti Ministry Update

Because schools in Haiti are closed for the remainder of the year due to the Coronavirus pandemic, our partners at Trinity Hope cannot operate their normal school meal program. They have therefore decided to initiate an emergency process that will provide food to the families of the children they normally feed at school. One month's allocation of food will be distributed to each sponsored student's family at their school. This ensures that not only the students, but their entire families will be provided with at least some food during this crisis period.

Our congregation currently sponsors two schools, Yahve-Nissi in Bainet and Institute Olivier in Port-Au-Prince. Please continue to pray for the students, their families, the teachers, and the Feeding Program Directors in Haiti. In a related note, our Haitian friend Stevenson Jean-Baptiste will graduate (virtually) from Parkland College on May 22. God willing, he will return home to Haiti on June 6-7, and in August begin his new job as a Feeding Program Director for Trinity Hope, where he will be responsible for schools in the Jacmel area. You may email farewells and best wishes to [stevensonjeanbaptiste6197@gmail.com](mailto:stevensonjeanbaptiste6197@gmail.com).

If you wish to donate specifically to Trinity Hope's COVID-19 relief effort, you may do so by check payable to Trinity Hope (Memo: COVID-19 Relief), 2024 Hunters Place, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122; or online at Trinity Hope COVID-19 Relief. Questions? Contact Chris Roegge ([croegge@gmail.com](mailto:croegge@gmail.com)) or [Pastor Shawn](#)

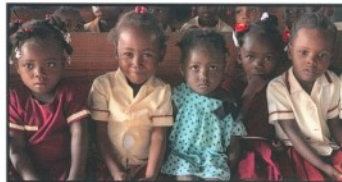
Here's the latest letter that we've received from Yahve-Nissi in Bainet. This was written before COVID-19 crisis



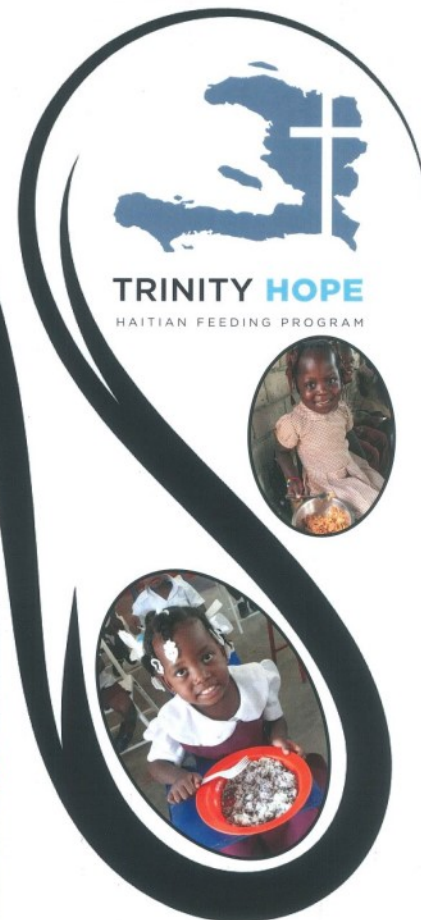




*Merci*



Trinity Urbana, thank you for changing the lives of the children in Haiti spiritually and physically by sponsoring a noon meal for the children at Institution Olivier.



#### Trinity HOPE Facts:

- Began in 1999 feeding just 42 kids, now feeding over 28,000 daily
- Website: [www.trinityhope.org](http://www.trinityhope.org)
- Facebook: [trinityhopehaiti](https://www.facebook.com/trinityhopehaiti)

#### School Facts:

- City: Port-au-Prince
- Central District
- Feeding program began: Sept. 2019
- Grades: PreK-6th
- 173 students