



# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Experiencing and  
Sharing Jesus

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

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

Traditional Worship - Saturday - 5:30 p.m.

Traditional Worship - Sunday - 8:30 a.m.

Contemporary Worship - Sunday - 10:45 a.m.

Join us online - Sunday - 10:45 a.m. [trinity-urbana.org](http://trinity-urbana.org)



Dear Friends in Christ,

During the month of June and July I was preaching from the book of Philippians. I hope that you had the opportunity to read Philippians. It's four short chapters rich with encouragement that we all need in times of difficulty—like what we are experiencing with COVID-19. Even though things are getting “back to normal,” whatever normal is, life is still weird compared to how things used to be.

The apostle Paul is a model for us in learning what it means to endure hardship. Suffering and hardship should come as no surprise to us. Perhaps we cannot explain the meaning of suffering philosophically, but we can go through hard times in a Christ-like manner.

In Philippians chapter 3, Paul offers himself as an example for how to go through hard times. Very near the end of this chapter, in verse 17, he says, “Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.”

This kind of exhortation is common in Paul's letters. He often offered his own life as a personal example. But the Philippians had a unique perspective in understanding how Paul endured persecution. The Book of Acts records that in the very first days after Paul arrived in the city of Philippi, he was thrown into jail. He responded to this imprisonment by singing praises to God! And God responded to Paul's praises by supernaturally breaking him out of jail! Even the Philippian jailer was impacted by Paul's example. The jailer took Paul into his own home, bandaged his wounds, and became a follower of Jesus. He and his whole family were baptized as new converts!

Paul's example while he was planting the church in Philippi is instructive in two ways. First, there is frequently a connection between fruitful growth in Christ and difficult days. Second, the world is watching as followers of Jesus endure tough times. How Paul responded, and by extension how we respond, becomes a means of evangelism. Our actions authenticate our message.

Perhaps you have never been thrown in jail for your testimony of Christ. Perhaps you have never been beaten because you were a follower of Jesus. But difficult days come in many forms. There are plenty of believers who have suffered the loss of family relationships because of their belief. There are plenty of believers who have been passed over for promotions at work because they put their faith first and their work second. There are plenty of believers who make choices involving personal loss in order to remain faithful to Jesus their Lord. Perhaps you are one of those believers.



The question is not whether we will face hardship or suffering. That's a certainty. The only questions are when and how will we face the trouble. Christ suffered on the cross to pay for your sins, but Jesus who suffered yet suffers with you as you go through hardships and sufferings in this world. “Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us” (Romans 8:34, ESV). Jesus is very much aware of and feels deeply for you in stress and pain. We do well to draw near to Him. This is what Paul means in writing: “For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too... On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again.”<sup>11</sup> You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many” (2 Corinthians 1:5, 10-11, ESV).



The great lesson from Philippi is that our actions become the message. Our lives—individually and corporately—become the Good News especially as we endure hardships in this life. We can demonstrate to the watching world that difficult times are something that God intends to lead us through not leave us in. The Gospel doesn't promise that God will never let anything bad happen to you. Many people's faith can be on the verge of folding simply because they begin to face hard times. The true good news is that Jesus will be with us through whatever we face, in good times or in bad times.

Again, consider that Paul and Silas were singing in prison. We don't know what song they were singing. Christ has a song that He's placed in our hearts. In difficult times, it's a song of dependence on Christ's love and care. We learn this best by going through hard times. Paul is an example and later he wrote: "Be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup>always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:18b-20, NIV).

Blessings in Jesus,

*Pastor Shawn*



**LWML School Kits:** We are once again collecting supplies for school kits. These kits will be assembled by WIM in October and shipped by Lutheran World Relief. (Since 1945, Lutheran World Relief has tackled the problem of global poverty. The school kits and quilts assembled and sent by WIM reach some of the world's poorest communities. Lutheran World Relief currently operates in East & West Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East.)

Each school kit needs the following items:

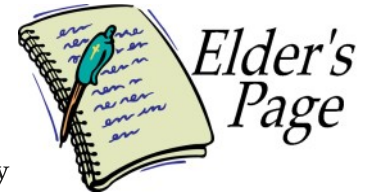
- Four 70 sheets notebooks
- One blunt scissors
- One 12-inch ruler, or one with centimeters on one side/inches on the other
- One eraser approximately 2 1/2" long
- Five ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- One pencil sharpener
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- One box crayons, 16 or 24 count

A large collection box will be in the narthex for collection of donations.

THANK YOU so much for your generosity!



## ***My Grace Is Sufficient for You!***



Are you tired of the summer heat yet? It's not the heat that's the problem, it's the humidity! We've all heard that before, and likely said it even more times! Regardless of the heat index, I'll be the first to admit that I like changes in the weather, especially when a simple trip to the mailbox means you'll likely break a sweat before you make it back to the house. It's also very reassuring to know however, that not all things change. The one constant that we all need, is here for us always and forever. God is the Almighty Constant!

I'm drawn to Paul's writing in 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 where he goes into detail about the things he knows and admits also that other things only God knows. Paul goes on to reveal a personal issue that he refers to as the thorn in the flesh. The fact that three times he had "besought the Lord about this" (see verse 8), but the answer given in Jesus words was **"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."** (Verse 9). These **RED Letters** stand out as they should, as they are Jesus' only words in the entire book of 2 Corinthians.

Near the end of our August Portals of Prayer devotions, the author shares some insight about this amazing truth that "My Grace is sufficient for you..." I know we've heard this passage many times before, but when these Six (6) words are emphasized individually, more is revealed about how awesome these words are!

**"MY"** is the unmistakable and undeniable truth that the Creator of the universe is here, and present and assures us that He is enough, and that His measure of what is needed is true. He alone has the authority and power to fix anything and everything that is wrong, broken or lost.

**"GRACE"** is what we need. We think like the sinful human beings we are, and don't understand that God's plan includes His Grace, supplied as he determines that we have the need. Our own thorns may heal or hurt all the more, but we trust that good will come in God's time.

**"IS"** refers to the fact that it wasn't given sometime just in the past that has faded into distant memory. It doesn't mean that we must wait until later to collect it. It is given constantly to each of us exactly as God supplies.

**"SUFFICIENT"** simply stated translates as enough. The author shares that this word causes them to struggle. I agree, and struggle myself to understand how God always provides enough grace to meet my needs. That's my doubt surfacing, I have finite understanding and God knows everything that we need. Trust and believe.

**"FOR"** may seem like it has obvious meaning in context, but it has equal meaning alone. Grace is for you and me! It is ready and waiting to be shared with us, because it is meant to be ours! It can't be confused or misdirected to someone else, but is tailored perfectly.

**"YOU"** is as personal as it gets. It's the personal destination of God's Grace! It's supplied with or without asking. It's supplied to everyone. We may even struggle with the apparent inequity that exists in our relationships, our circumstances, our finances, our health or even when we think about others.

Don't fall into the trap of comparing yourself to others. Rest assured in God's Word, that "My Grace Is Sufficient For You." Grow stronger and closer in your relationship with Jesus.

Dear Heavenly Father, help us to better understand Your Grace as we read and hear Your Word. You speak to each of us individually, and we know that even in these stressful and uncertain times, Your Grace is sufficient for me. Amen.

Kevin Donoho - Elder Chairman



## Wee Disciples Preschool News

The start of the 2020-2021 Wee Disciples Preschool year is quickly approaching. The month of August begins with new student home visits. This is a very exciting time for the Wee Disciples families and staff as we get to know our new families better. On August 11 starting at 2:00 pm the Wee Disciples parents are invited to a Zoom orientation for the upcoming year. Also, each Wee Disciples Preschool family is invited to a Zoom Tour of the classroom before

the first day of school at the Preschool Preview on August 23. The first day of preschool is August 24 for the MWF & 5 Day class and then August 25 for the TTH class. To start the school year, we will be learning about labeling emotions and friendship. The central focus is to share with the students about how God created the world, God protects us and is with us always, and God (and Jesus) is our greatest friend.

Welcome to all the new and returning Wee Disciples Families!

Together the Wee Disciples Preschool Committee and I have created a reopening plan to address staff and student safety in accordance with COVID-19 mandated recommendations and rulings. Several program changes have been developed that include building usage restrictions during the school session, altering class routines, updating cleaning protocols, adding Health and Safety policies, etc. A complete COVID-19 Reopening Plan will be posted on the website this month. Also, watch for signage that will be posted with instructions while school is in session. Wee Disciples Preschool really appreciates your patience and compliance with these changes to ensure our preschool can remain open to serve our mission for Trinity Lutheran Church.

Please keep our preschool, teachers, students, and their families in your prayers as we begin a new year.

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

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## Trinity Small Groups and Bible Studies

Many of Trinity's Small Groups and Bible Study Groups are meeting. Some groups meet online via Zoom. Please reach out to your individual group leader for information about your group. Please contact the church office at 217-367-8923 if you have further questions.

- Women's Book Group (Risë Lange)
- Pieces of Love at church (Jennifer Holhubner)
- Cottage Bible Study at homes (Mary Jo Rott)
- Women in Mission at church (Faith Wetzel)
- Tuesday Bible Study (Pastor Ehlers) -
- Young Adults Fellowship (Jill Boylan)
- Breakfast Bible Study at Urbana Gardens (Phil or Joyce Bell)
- Couples Bibles Study (Risë Lange)
- Home Bible Study at the Rouse's (Hilary Rouse)
- JOY – will not meet in August



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As COVID-19 restrictions gradually ease, we are thrilled at the prospects of dining out, shopping, getting a haircut... and going to church! And we are impatient to return to normal as quickly as possible. Even so, we are reminded daily that, at least for a time, the “new normal” will be much different than the old.

Ever since the beginning of the pandemic, the Ministry and Parish Councils have discussed – at great length – plans for gradually and responsibly returning to in-person worship services. These discussions are guided by God’s Word and informed by the most current information available from state government, public health agencies, the synod, and other sources. We are keenly aware of our responsibility to protect both the *spiritual* and *physical* health of every person at Trinity.

Per the latest state guidelines, we have resumed modified, in-person worship services in the sanctuary. All three services will be held at the regular times, Saturday at 5:30 and Sunday at 8:30 and 10:45. Please be aware that several restrictions will necessarily apply. It is very important that we abide by these guidelines as responsible citizens, for the health and safety of our worshipers, and for liability protection.

- Everyone must RSVP intent to attend using the online booking system or contacting Mike at the church office. Each individual requires a separate reservation so that we stay within allowable limits.
- The front doors to the church will not be used. Entry will be by the Preschool door, which will be opened 15 minutes prior to the beginning of the service. A sanitation station is placed inside the entry.
- Face masks must be worn inside the building.
- The drinking fountain will be closed.
- Restrooms will be open; one person at a time please.
- Worshipers will enter the sanctuary through the West door only.
- Social distancing of at least six (and preferably 10) feet between households must be maintained in the sanctuary. This will affect seating and communion procedure.
- Singing and group recitation will be limited.
- Worshipers will exit the sanctuary through the east door, then please exit the building promptly through the garden door.
- There will be no coffee fellowship between the Sunday services until further notice.

Obviously, this will be far different than the normal worship experience and will require significant adjustment from everyone. It will be up to each of us to decide when and under what conditions we feel comfortable returning to in-person worship. Services will continue to be live-streamed so that those who choose to wait can join remotely.

We humbly plead for your patience – and your prayers – as we tiptoe toward “normal” during this extraordinary time. Please keep love for, and the health and safety of, others at the heart of your decisions. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mike at the church office (367-8923).

Let us then give thanks and rejoice in the words of the Psalmist, “I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go into the house of the LORD.’” (Psalm 122:1, NKJV).

Blessings to All,

Pastor Shawn Boylan and the Ministry Council

Rick Winkel, President and Parish Council Chair

Kevin Donoho, Head Elder

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**Do not enter the Fellowship Hall until further notice.** The Fellowship Hall, including the kitchen, is closed to everyone effective immediately due to potential hazards resulting from a roof leak and ceiling failure, including possible injuries from failing ceiling tiles, pooled water on the floor, and electrical shock. Thank you to the members of the Property Management Committee for taking steps to protect safety of our members as they assess the roof leak and related potential hazards and investigate and determine necessary repairs and insurance coverage. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mike at the church office (367-8923).

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**St. John Lutheran School Open Enrollment:** St. John Lutheran School is currently accepting applications for the 2020-2021 school year. School will begin on Wednesday, August 19 for students in Kindergarten-Eighth Grade. Limited spaces are available. School Hours are Monday-Friday from 8:00-3:15. After School Care is also available. Please contact the school office at 217-359-1714 to reserve a space for your child. Together, we are building a firm foundation on the Word of God.

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## AUGUST Birthdays

08/02	Jacqueline Parks
	Raymond Parks
08/03	Shawna Barbee
08/03	Daniel Messman
08/04	Dennis Stremming
08/07	Will Peifer
08/08	Selina Schuldt
08/10	Ruth Benton
08/12	Reanna Bear-Brister
08/13	Heather Noe
08/15	Jeremy Benton
08/15	William Umphenour
08/16	Deirdre Tsiakals
08/19	Carolyn Stewart
08/20	Kathleen Donoho
	Kevin Donoho
08/23	Rachel Vanetti
08/24	David Lange
08/26	Daniel Albers
	Rachel Albers
	Daryl Witte
08/27	Helen Burch
08/29	John Steer
08/30	Maxwell Benson
08/31	Randy Niemann
	Karen Rohrer
	Ginger Roney

## AUGUST Anniversaries

08/06	Justin & Lynnea Blackburn (9 years)
08/09	Doug & Kathy Bull (34 years)
	David & Risë Lange (40 years)
08/13	Jeff & Julie Warren (37 years)
08/15	Brian & Rachel Vanetti (8 years)
08/16	Chris & Judy Roegge (45 years)
08/19	Maurice & Liz Knocke (38 years)
08/23	Peter & Sylvia Sauer (51 years)
08/25	Rick & Deb Winkel (41 years)
08/27	Jim & Kay Cook (32 years)

For the Month of July	
July 5, 2020	\$6,694
July 12, 2020	\$4,274
July 19, 2020	\$5,704
July 26, 2020	\$5,195
July total Offerings	\$21,867
YTD Receipts	\$161,169
Copies of Trinity's monthly income, expenses and full budget breakdown are in the Narthex and updated each month.	



**Restock the  
SHELVES**

**Food Pantry:** We currently need the following items to help restock our food pantry: canned fruit, canned vegetables, fruit juice, apple juice, pasta, pasta sauce. All donations of canned and dry packaged foods are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support!

August 2020							
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31						