

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

Pastor Shawn Boylan – 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 - 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. trinity-urbana.org

Dear Friends in Christ,

Revelation, chapter 5 verses 9-10, has a very powerful and important message for all of us in America today. The world has always had trials and difficulties. Sunday messages a few weeks ago looked at the sufferings of the early church community of John's day.

We have difficulties today. One of them, for example, is this coronavirus. It has radically changed how we do just about everything. Now, this text doesn't really help us too much with dealing with COVID-19, but it's powerfully speaking to another issue that we have brewing in America—that of racial harmony and unity.



REVELATION

"And they sang a new song, saying: 'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. ¹⁰ You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.'" Rev 5:9-10, NIV

What I hope you get from this is a deep appreciation for how important racial harmony is to God. I also, hope that you can see that the great diversity among the nations and races in this world is God's work. He has done this in order to display just how precious and important the blood and the sacrifice of Christ is for true harmony and unity for all people.

What I think is important is that when you purchase something—as the text says that Christ did with His own blood—you generally do it pointedly, you know what you're doing and why. The idea of racial harmony and justice is not originally of human desire, but God's. He desires it so much that he paid an unfathomable cost for it—the sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ. The problem of racial inequality and racial injustice is real because sin is real and everybody's a sinner. The answer, as the text tells us clearly, is the blood of Christ.

God intends to have a people of his own, not just from white or black families but from all ethnic groups. All shades and all cultures. This is underlined by the four words, "people, tribe, language and nation [*ethnos*]." This covers the

whole range of ethnic diversity in the world. God designed, aimed, purposed to have a people that are very diverse.

And this is probably where the work of Christ becomes controversial: God intends for these people to be united in a profound, God-centered harmony in Christ. The world thinks it doesn't need Jesus. It tries to use force or laws to create unity apart from Christ. God's remedy through Christ's sacrifice achieved unity that the world can't because it paid for the sin of world. The world accentuates our differences and makes them our identity. But God accentuates His love for us and for all people, and that is truly our identity. It is not that I am white or black, young or old, rich or poor, male or female, Irish or American, a teacher or a police officer. All life matters to God. He made all of us. He made us to love us, to have a relationship with us as a good Father. He paid a high price to redeem all of us from sin.

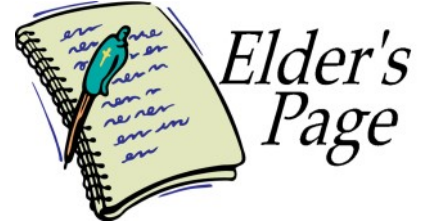
This is why divisions, not just of race or color, but of anything that doesn't "love your neighbor as yourself" are so serious. God purposely purchased people from every tribe and nation to magnify the power and love of Jesus Christ.

If bringing all peoples together as one, cost the Father and the Son such an extreme and unfathomable price, should we expect that it cost us nothing? That it will be easy? That the devil, who hates Christ's love and despises the aim of the cross, will just give up, just yield without a fight? To join God in loving people will be costly. It's hard work to love people, but it's what we're called to do (Luke 14:25-35, Luke 22:31-34, 1 John 3:11-18). And take heart, the blood of Jesus will not fail. Faith well exercised grows in good works. In other words, fruitful faith strengthens faith. Luther wrote, "This strength is far different from physical strength, which decreases and is consumed if one uses and does something too much. But this spiritual strength increases the more one makes use of and applies it." LW, vol. 30, p. 158

So, think deeply on this. You may not have to look too far either. He's purchased you and placed you in your family, your work, your church and society to reflect the love of Christ.

Blessings in Jesus,

It's Chilly Outside, Be Warm Inside



The days are getting noticeably shorter. The temperature is dropping more steadily and mornings start out cooler. Many leaves have been changing color and dropping, while still other trees waste no time in showing off their colors and go straight to their bald condition. Yes, all the tell-tale signs of fall and the latest change of season surround us. It's time to have a camp fire or maybe light up the fire pit and roast some hot dogs and make some s'mores!

It had been probably a year since we had our last "camp fire" at our place. Sure, I had burned brush piles over that same period of time, but never really enjoyed the warmth of the fire or the other benefits from my labors. Maybe one or two hours after lighting the pile, Brenda suggested we invite the neighbors, and see if they were interested in having a few hot dogs or s'mores. I said sure, go for it.

With no hesitation, she invited them over, and while they were just sitting down to dinner themselves, they agreed to come down afterward and make s'mores because it sounded fun and it was a good excuse to get out of the house. Now the race was on to get everything ready, including preparations for socially distancing everyone and keeping items sanitary. The evening had been relatively warm, and with all my scrambling around in preparation for their arrival, I felt completely over dressed in my dirty jeans and a raggedy shirt. They arrived while the daylight waned, but had no trouble finding us and the stash of fixings on the old table covered with a favorite stars and stripes themed table cloth.

I commented that it was too warm for a coat or sweater like they each wore, while we sat comfortably near the fire in shirts and jeans. We exchanged greetings and everyone switched into autopilot pretty quickly and made themselves at home in a chair of their choice. We roasted hot dogs while they had s'mores! Let the story telling begin! It was as if we were long lost buddies at a class reunion, who got back together after years apart. We started up right where we had left off! Who needs a big TV and surround sound (we don't actually have that) when a cozy fire, some roasting sticks and a few hot dogs and marshmallows are handy?

Near the crackling fire, the occasional whiff of smoke, the fire light reflecting off the tall trees, and the stars still visible above the tree's canopy, we had a terrific time, and thoroughly enjoyed each other's company. Isn't that what life is all about, love thy neighbor? (see Mat 22:39) Sharing time and company with friends and neighbors. For a couple hours, even though COVID19 is still present, it certainly disappeared from our thoughts, while we shared stories about everything from soup to nuts, and updated each other on our lives and families. By the time we decided to call it an evening, it had gotten much cooler. While it may have been colder outside, our time spent together as God's Children, made everyone warm inside.

Heavenly father, help each of us to find a friend, neighbor or family member who needs a little warmth inside. Help us to share your story with them, so they may be warmed from the inside out. Bring us all close to the everlasting warmth found in your word and presence. Amen.

In HIS Service,

Kevin Donoho – Elder Chairman

President's Monthly Report to the Congregation

Let us pray that our Heavenly Father will help us to be bold witnesses to Your salvation, to demonstrate a firm commitment to Your Work, and to increase our community involvement to grow Your family. Amen.

This is my report to you for the past month. To begin, I would like to explain that in my role as President of the congregation, I also chair the Parish Council, which “shall be responsible for all matters pertaining to the legal, financial, and general welfare of the congregation, including the hiring and release of paid congregational personnel and overseeing the call process for ministerial positions issued by the voters’ assembly.” (Bylaws Article III, Section 2.A. and D.) Please let me know what questions you have about the business of our church. If I do not have a ready answer for you, I will find it or point you in the right direction. You can reach me at rwinkeljr@live.com, which I prefer, or at (217) 649-7753 (text or voice).

As you may know, on September 13, 2020, fifty-six (56) members of our church (37 in-person in the sanctuary and 19 by live streaming over the Internet) met in a Special Voters’ Assembly. The Fellowship Hall and the Capital Pledge Committee were on our agenda. What follows is my description of the meeting and it is not intended to supersede the official minutes, which are being drafted and will be approved at our next Voters’ Assembly on November 22, 2020.

After declaring a quorum, we opened the meeting with prayer. I presented the factsheet (FAQs), which you may have received before the meeting by email. We then watched a YouTube video, which was based on the concept proposed by our Building Committee to the congregation about a year ago. If we were to decide ultimately to do this concept in its entirety, the new building would cost about \$2 million, (which, if necessary, could be scaled back). As we deliberated over these things during the meeting, we had the opportunity to ask questions and make comments and we considered motions and offered amendments. We considered three separate motions, and those who voted all voted Yes (without a single No vote), and we thereby approved the motions.

The motions, as approved, were:

THAT the Fellowship Hall should be demolished.

THAT the Campaign Pledge Committee should restart the campaign immediately and present a preliminary progress report to the fall 2020 Voters’ Assembly on November 22, 2020.

THAT the Building Committee should restart its work by preparing a construction plan to demolish the Fellowship Hall and to build new church facilities, including designs, drawings, and specifications, and cost estimates that are consistent with the financial pledges made by the congregation, and present the construction plan to the spring 2021 Voters’ Assembly, or as soon as a plan is ready.

After the motions were approved, David Lange, as chair of the Capital Pledge Committee, lost no time in restarting the campaign and told us that our goal is \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000. Then he announced a major gift to kick-off the campaign!

The announcement was that Pete and Sylvia Sauer have pledged \$500,000 on a dollar-for-dollar matching basis, which means that for every dollar we pledge, they will match ours up to the full amount of their pledge. So, if we together as a congregation pledge \$500,000, then the combined gift will be \$1,000,000. Thank you, Pete and Sylvia!

David then asked that each of us prayerfully consider making our own pledge by filling out a pledge card. The Capital Pledge Committee will provide us with pledge cards and instructions. David told us to look for a newsletter from the committee soon. We closed our meeting with prayer and adjourned.

In closing this report, I hope you are staying healthy and I pray that we continue to take care of each other at Trinity, including our families, our friends, and our community.

Grace and peace,

Rick Winkel

ALL ARE WELCOME Campaign has resumed!

The Trinity ALL ARE WELCOME Campaign for raising funds for expansion and rehabilitation of the fellowship hall as been resumed. The Voters Meeting on September 13, 2020 took action to resume the campaign that had been suspended in March 2020 at the outset of the COVID-19 lockdown. Trinity will be mailing the next issue of the Campaign Newsletter, along with pledge cards and project description, within the coming days. The campaign will focus on sharing the need, the goals, and distribution of pledge cards. The campaign will continue through November 22, 2020 (Sunday before Thanksgiving) at which point we will be able to assess our ability to pursue a building project to replace the hail and water damaged fellowship hall. Our goal is \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000 to achieve a full answer to our needs. The mailed materials will include a testimonial from Pete and Sylvia Sauer who have generously promised a \$500,000 matching fund to inspire Trinity members to respond enthusiastically to the pledge drive. David Lange is chairing the Campaign Committee, and you can reach him with questions at 217-898-0086 or email davidlange@icloud.com.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2020

Changes are happening in the way we do things these days, but we can still send boxes for Operation Christmas Child. This year, instead of having a packing party and meeting together to pack gifts, we plan to pack the gift boxes individually, and as families. Think what fun it is to shop for gifts for a child- especially if you can go shopping with a child or a grandchild, a family member or a friend!

The leadership of Samaritan's Purse and Operation Christmas Child is encouraging churches and individuals to continue packing gift boxes for needy children around the world. Many families are suffering this year from the Corona virus and from the economic downturn resulting from the virus. Children need those shoebox gifts, and the Gospel message that is delivered with them, this year more than ever.

We will not collect and store items to put in the boxes at the church this year. Instead individuals and families can pick-up empty boxes at church, shop for items, and fill the boxes. We plan to have the boxes available on Nov. 1st for you to pick-up, but you may begin shopping whenever you are ready.

You may return the filled boxes anytime the church is open between Nov. 1st and November 22nd. We will deliver the filled boxes Sunday, Nov. 22nd in the afternoon, to be packed onto trucks ready to get them started on their journey.

Trinity has sent around 50 boxes each year; we hope, by God's grace, to meet that goal this year also.

SHOEBOX IDEAS





Wee Disciples Preschool News

The Wee Disciples Preschool Committee met on September 17, 2020 and made a few updates to the Wee Disciples Preschool COVID-19 Reopening Plan. The updated plan can be found on the Trinity website at www.trinity-urbana.org. With this plan in place the start to the 2020-21 school year has gone very smoothly. Everyone is happy to be back in session!

On September 8th, new roller shades were installed in the preschool to finish out the updates to the classroom. With the new carpet, paint and shades, the preschool is looking fantastic. Thank you to everyone who helped make these updates possible!

Several donations of books, toys, and supplies were made to the classroom in the past month. I feel so blessed by these thoughtful contributions to our preschool. Thank you to the Wanagat, Roegge, and Holhubner families.

October is an exciting month at Wee Disciples Preschool. We will start the month learning about tree farms and will move into learning all about trains. In Bible Time we will continue to make our way through the Old Testament focusing on some of our favorites such as Moses, David, and Daniel.

Mark your calendars for a free parenting workshop entitled, "No More Sibling Rivalry," on October 6 from 7:00-8:30 pm via Zoom meeting format. This is a presentation by Christine Leeb from Real Life Families. To register for this event, please email me at weedisciplespreschool@yahoo.com. A Zoom Invite will be sent out to all participants on October 5th.

Monday, October 12, is no school at Wee Disciples to observe a Fall Holiday. On October 30th & 31st, we will have Fall Parties for our students to celebrate this wonderful season with some fun games and snacks. Finally, on October 29 & 30, Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held for all Wee Disciples students. There is no school on either of those days to accommodate the conferences.

God's Blessings,
Karen Rohrer,
Director and Teacher



Trinity Small Groups and Bible Studies

Please reach out to the individual group leaders for further information about your group.

- Women's Book Group - Monday, October 5, 19, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. (Risë Lange)
- Pieces of Love at church (Jennifer Holhubner)
- Cottage Bible Study at homes (Mary Jo Rott)
- Women in Mission at church - Tuesday, October 13, 6:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary. (Faith Wetzel)
- Tuesday Bible Study (Pastor Ehlers) - October 6, 13, 20, 27 9:30 a.m. in the church sanctuary.
- 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 October



NO MORE SIBLING RIVALRY



The fighting, the bickering, the tattling, the yelling, the screaming...AAAAAAHHHH! Enough! If you're tired of your kids not getting along with each other and desire to have more teamwork and unity between your children, this class is for you! In this Parenting Seminar, we will:

- identify triggers that cause siblings to fight and what we do to make it worse.**
- discover ways you can foster closer, healthier relationships between siblings.**
- learn simple, powerful tools to teach siblings to get along and work as a team.**

FREE PARENTING WORKSHOP

Presented via Zoom Format

Event Date / Time

**October 6, 2020
7-8:30 pm**

SPONSORS



Real Life Families



Wee Disciples Preschool
Trinity Lutheran Church, Urbana

**EMAIL TO REGISTER
BY 10/2/2020**

WEEDISCIPLSPRESCHOOL@YAHOO.COM

**INVITATIONS TO THE
ZOOM MEETING WILL BE
SENT ON 10/5/2020**



OCTOBER Birthdays

10/1	Lindsey Cox Besserat Stifanos
10/2	Wayne Matthews
10/3	Lauren Holderfield
10/5	Janet Boerngen Etimet Stifanos
10/6	Bill Peifer
10/7	David Nation Auggie Rusch
10/8	Kathleen Harvey Scott Summers
10/9	William Benton
10/12	Carolyn Meyer
10/13	Risë Lange David McWilliams
10/16	Tammy Cress Ed Werner
10/17	Joseph Umphenour
10/19	Bonnie Renfrew
10/20	Denise McWilliams Megan Roegge
10/21	Wade Althoff
10/26	Randa Davis
10/30	Kevin Albers
10/31	Wayne Schmidt

OCTOBER Anniversaries

10 /1	Jim & Kerry Rossow (26 years)
10/7	John & Susan Sheppelman (25 years)
10/8	Jeremy & Shawna Benton (2 years)
10/11	Mike & Betty Strom (40 years)
10/12	Brad & Kathy Ashmore (29 years)
10/15	Daniel & Rachel Albers (9 years)
10/24	Wayne & Lavonne Schmidt (49 years)
10/26	Debesai & Senait Stifanos (18 years)



For the Month of September

September 6, 2020	\$7,808
September 13, 2020	\$4,983
September 20, 2020	\$4,781
September 27, 2020	\$3,497
September total Offerings	\$21,069
YTD Receipts	\$205,052

Copies of Trinity's monthly income, expenses and full budget breakdown are in the Narthex and updated each month.



The women's book group will meet via Zoom on Monday, October 5 and 19 at 7:00 p.m. We will discuss chapters 2 and 3 of "When The Heart Waits" by Sue Monk Kidd. All are welcome to join.



SALVATION
*is nearer to
us now than
when we*
**FIRST
BELIEVED.**

ROMANS 13:11, ESV

