



# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

EXPERIENCING AND SHARING JESUS



*and the*  
**PEACE OF GOD**  
*... shall keep your hearts and minds  
through Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:7 - KJV

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 - 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. [trinity-urbana.org](http://trinity-urbana.org)



Dear Friends of Trinity,

Who wouldn't want to say, "Good bye!" to 2020. None of us saw it coming, but perhaps all of us want to see it go. Though it has been a tough and serious year, there are some funny things that we can take from 2020:

- Who would have thought that face-masks would be fashionable?
- Who would have thought that America would run out of toilet paper, or that people would be hoarding it!



I think all of us miss freely fellowshiping without restrictions, and without having to wear masks. We missed Holy Week and Easter services this year. But, at the same time, I'm amazed that we were able to conduct a capital campaign during the final months of 2020 that will allow us to proceed with improvements to our facility. Also, we now live-stream and record our services! There's a lot we could be bummed about. But there always is!

On the contrary, I think I feel richer in faith at the close of 2020 than I did at the beginning. I am reminded that when things are going just perfectly—in control—I don't sense that same need to trust the Lord Jesus or to seek Him in the same way. Peter wrote: "There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while.<sup>7</sup> These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world" (1 Peter 1:6-7, NLT). It's encouraging that God can renew our faith and refine it in challenging times.

One of the great attributes of God that is most comforting to me is his sovereignty. I need to know that nothing happens in my life that is outside of his knowing or outside of his control. And the good, the bad, and the ugly things that happen in my life, he's aware of them all. And he's working behind the scenes.

Don't misunderstand me. Jesus doesn't cause the bad and ugly things in life. But he allows them in order to grow our faith and mature our character more and more into His own image. Remember, there can be no transformation without tribulation as Christ Himself said, "In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world". (John 16:33, NKJV).

## Dear 2020

**YOU'VE  
TAUGHT ME  
TO BE  
READY FOR  
ANYTHING!  
BUT I BELIEVE  
THAT JESUS  
IS WITH ME  
IN EVERYTHING!**

**"God has said, 'Never will I leave you;  
never will I forsake you.'"**

Hebrews 13:5, NIV



So when the Bible says that "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" Ps 46:1, you can believe it.

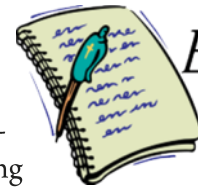
When the Bible says, "For the LORD God is our sun and our shield. He gives us grace and glory. The LORD will withhold no good thing from those who do what is right. <sup>12</sup> O LORD of Heaven's Armies, what joy for those who trust in you" Ps 84:11-12, you can believe it.

What does 2021 have in store for you? I don't know, but God does. When you believe that Jesus' love for you is greater than anything you may encounter, I think you'll be alright.

Blessings in Jesus,

*Pastor Shawn*

## A Log in Your Eye



*Elder's  
Page*

A new year has begun! 2020 is now history. Many make resolutions for the occasion. Those might range from trying a new diet or joining a gym (assuming that's an option), practicing a healthier lifestyle or learning a new skill that has been put off for a long time. While those resolutions usually begin with good intentions, quite often life gets in the way. We are consumed by daily work demands, or even regular activities which occupy our time and our thoughts. We may even justify our actions, in numerous ways. No matter what the reason(s) for not following through with those resolutions, there's only one (1) person to blame. The same person who looks back in the mirror. This isn't to say that resolutions or even new challenges are bad, and we shouldn't have any. We should however be realistic, and honest about them.

If we're not careful, we fall into a trap that prevents us from achieving those goals. The trap which catches and holds us relentlessly. That trap is the one that exists in our own mind. That trap tells us things like; nobody has it worse than I do, or nobody else has as many responsibilities as I do, or the world would fall apart if I didn't keep doing all the things I'm doing, especially because I'm the only one who knows how best to do what needs to be done.

We may also fall into the comparison trap. It's the one which tempts us into comparing ourselves to others. We see only the faults of others, and by exposing and amplifying them, we may feel somehow better about ourselves in "comparison". We use those opportunities to build ourselves up, at the expense of others. We may do this in subtle ways, in silence or we may even do in a very public setting. It may involve someone we know or it can even be a complete stranger. Jesus told the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (see Luke 18:9-14 NIV) **"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: God, I thank you that I am not like other men – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get. But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."**

I don't do new-year's resolutions. It does seem easier to succeed, when you have nothing to fail, but that's not my point. It also doesn't take a new year to realize that I'm a work in progress (aren't we all). Jesus also told a parable about judging others: (see Luke 6:39-42 NIV) **"Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into a pit? The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher. "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."**

So, how do we get that plank (or log depending on translation) out of our eye? It is revealed to us in a lesson in Portals of Prayer, that we do this by confession. It's that simple. We get that plank out of our eye day by day, by confessing our sins to God. We know we all fall short, but God will forgive if we but ask him, for Jesus' sake. Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection, have paid for our sin. Every, single, one.

Dear Heavenly Father,

Help us to recognize the logs we have in our eyes, and to confess to you that we have fallen short again. Forgive our sins, so we may clearly see the path you have put before us. Lead us and guide us, so that the only resolution we need, is to follow you and to lead others to you.

In Jesus' Name,

Amen,

Kevin Donoho – Elder Chairman

## President's Monthly Report to the Congregation

Dear members of Trinity,

Happy New Year!

As a reminder, a special voters' assembly meeting will be held on Sunday, January 10, 2021 in the Trinity church sanctuary after the late service, which will begin at 12:15 PM, subject to the sanctuary being ready for the meeting.

The agenda will be limited to the consideration of a resolution regarding the initial preparatory work that would be required for a future building. On December 15, 2020, the Parish Council approved the resolution by a unanimous vote, subject to approval by the voters at a special voters' assembly meeting on January 10, 2021. A copy of the entire resolution was sent by email to all congregation members on December 16.

The major items in the resolution are:

"...retain Reifsteck Reid & Company, Champaign, Illinois, as architects, and Zion Church Builders, Inc., Kalamazoo, Michigan, as construction manager, to provide professional services in connection with the Project.

"To approve initial preparatory work that would be required, which are currently estimated to cost from \$182,000 to \$202,000, and which would be in preparation for the complete construction of the new fellowship hall..."

If you would like to attend IN-PERSON, please let us know by calling the Trinity office to make a reservation because seating in the sanctuary is limited to 50 members. You will also sign in when you arrive before the meeting so that we take attendance. You can reach Mike Campo at the Trinity office by calling (217) 367-8923.

Or, if you prefer to attend ONLINE (live streaming via Zoom), you can register in advance for the meeting by clicking this link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_YzRsNthmRsegLE9yGN38gQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YzRsNthmRsegLE9yGN38gQ)

After submitting the registration form you will receive a confirmation email with the link for joining the meeting online.

If you have questions about how to use Zoom to attend online, please call the Trinity Office. After you sign in online, you will also be asked to verbally acknowledge your membership before we begin our meeting so that we can take attendance.

Whether you attend IN-PERSON or ONLINE through live streaming, you will be able to participate during the meeting and to vote. Please pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit as we make our decisions during the Special Voters' Assembly meeting.

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

Grace and peace,

Rick Winkel, President  
(217) 649-7753 cell  
[rwinkeljr@live.com](mailto:rwinkeljr@live.com)





## Wee Disciples Preschool News

Happy New Year! The Wee Disciples Preschool students are on Christmas Break until January 3rd. We will have a week of remote learning via Zoom the first week back at school from January 4-8. Then we will return to in-person preschool on January 11.

The Bible time focus to begin this new semester of school will focus on Epiphany. The students will hear the story of the Wise Men's journey to

find the newborn king, Jesus. As January progresses, we will also learn about Jesus as a boy, the baptism of Jesus, and Jesus calling his disciples.

In January we will spend some time learning about the Gingerbread man story. We will then begin a unit about trains. On January 18, we will observe Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day with no school. Then on January 20 and 21, Champaign-Urbana Public Health will conduct mandatory Vision and Hearing Screenings for our preschoolers.

Wee Disciples Preschool has been blessed with students this year and in January we will officially have all our spaces filled with students. We even have a waiting list for spots in our program. God continues to bless our program, and it is so encouraging that we have so many families interested in sending their child to our preschool.

I personally want to thank Trinity Lutheran Church and the Wee Disciples Preschool committee for your generous monetary gifts this Christmas. I feel so blessed by the support and encouragement of everyone over this past year. 2020 was a challenging year for us all. I am so grateful for the opportunity to continue to serve at Trinity Lutheran Church with my work at Wee Disciples Preschool.

God's Blessings to you all,

**Karen Rohrer,**  
Director and Teacher



Dear Friends at Trinity,

Thanks to the congregation for your gift of love this Christmas. All God's best to you in Christ!

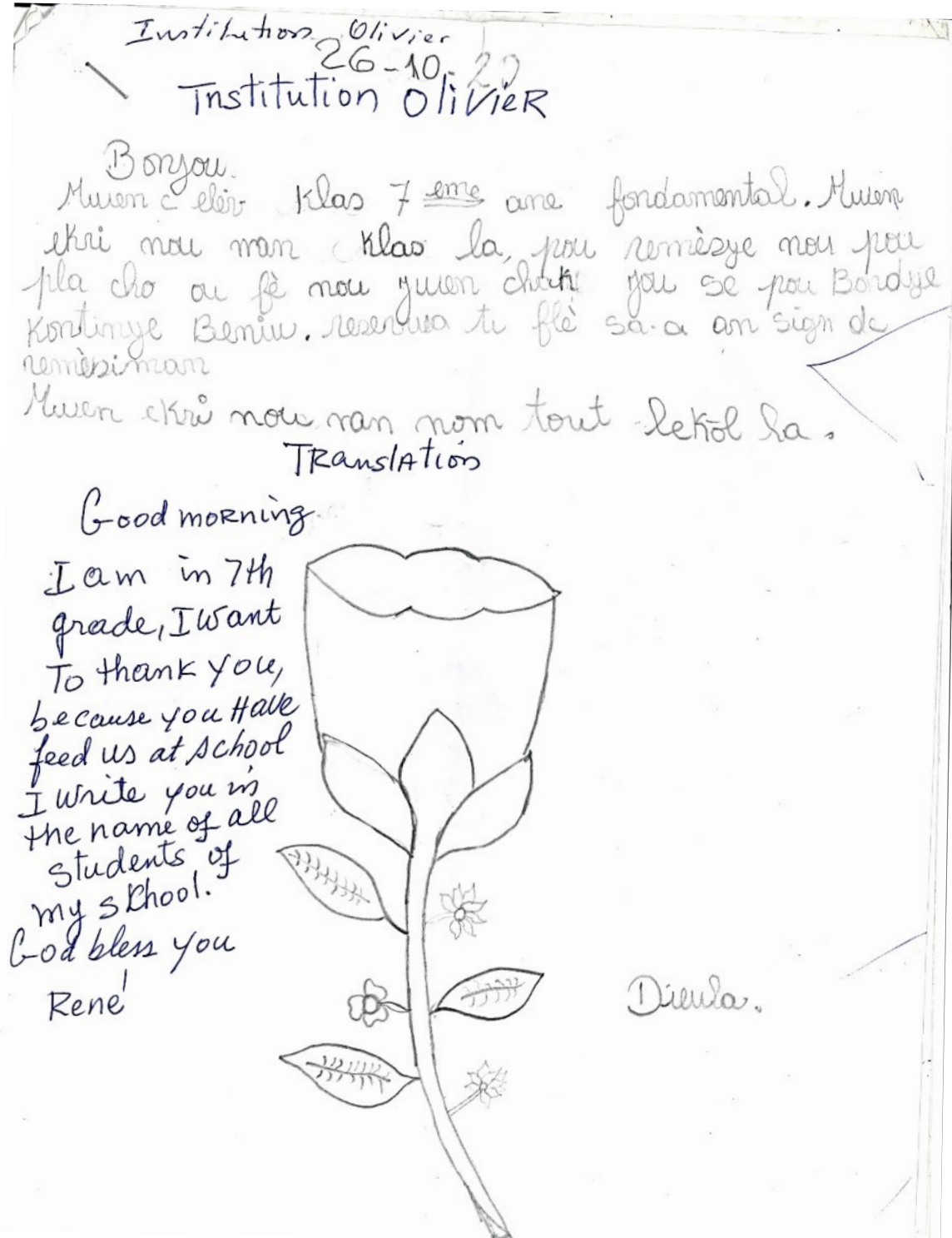
--Chaplain Bob and Nina

My thanks to Trinity Lutheran Church for your token of appreciation at Christmas. My recovery is slow. I look forward to time when I can once again lead the Tuesday Bible Class. Keep me in your prayers.

--Pastor Ehlers



It's a blessing to see how the Gospel of Jesus Christ works. Here's a letter addressed to all of us at Trinity Urbana from a student in one of the schools that we support through Trinity Hope:



It's perhaps difficult to understand how much a simple plate of rice and beans can mean to someone! But as the apostle Paul wrote, "This service you do not only helps the needs of God's people, it also brings many more thanks to God. <sup>13</sup>It is a proof of your faith. Many people will praise God because you obey the Good News of Christ—the gospel you say you believe—and because you freely share with them and with all others. <sup>14</sup>And when they pray, they will wish they could be with you because of the great grace that God has given you. <sup>15</sup>Thanks be to God for his gift that is too wonderful for words." (2 Corinthians 9:12–15, NCV).

Thank you to all who packed an **Operation Christmas Child** box this year! The effort was a great success. We had a total of 53 boxes, and we're happy to report that our boxes were shipped to Ukraine on Sat Dec 12<sup>th</sup>!

Please don't stop praying for the boy or girl that you thought and prayer for when you packed your shoebox. Continue to ask God to give them rich faith in Jesus Christ, so that he or she will follow Him all the days of their life. Pray also for families and entire communities to be transformed as God's love is shared through your simple gift!

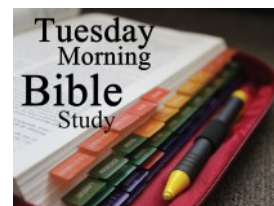


Dear Friends and Members,

Thank you so much for your generous Christmas gift. It's a joy and pleasure to serve you and the wonderful gift is just an added blessing from the Lord! Thanks, again, and we pray God's richest blessing to you in the year to come!

Pastor Shawn and Jill

*Thank  
You!*



The Tuesday Bible Class with Pastor Ehlers will be in recess through Jan-

uary. Pastor Ehlers is convalescing from open heart surgery, and we will keep you updated on his recovery and plans for the class. Please continue to keep Pastor Ehlers in your thoughts and prayers as he recovers.

# JANUARY



## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### **Birthdays**

01/01	Richard Kubetz
01/02	Fran Smallfield
01/05	James Holhubner
01/06	Mary Ellen Dörner
	Mary Ann Luedtke
01/07	Brent Burr

01/07	Amy Dannowitz
	Roy Messman
01/10	Mabel Clemens
01/12	Kerry Rossow
01/13	Karl Strater
01/14	Mary Jo Rott
	Kateryna Silvestro
01/15	Matthew Renfrew
01/17	Kay Cook
	Mark Williams
01/19	Kathy Mueller
01/20	Tim Boylan
	Carol Niemann
01/22	Joyce Bell
	Terra Strater
01/23	Elizabeth Stremming
01/24	Bailee Burr
01/25	Rebecca Kane
01/26	Ken Rott
01/27	Merl Mennenga
01/28	Shaun Noe
01/29	Phil Bell
	Wanda Werner
	Blake Wetzel
01/30	Mark Wetzel

### **Anniversaries**

01/15	Harry & Hilary Rouse (44 years)
01/19	Doyle & Tonda Hartle (41 years)

### **For the Month of December**

<b>December 6, 2020</b>	\$7,740
<b>December 13, 2020</b>	\$3,117
<b>December 20, 2020</b>	\$9,151
<b>December 27, 2020</b>	\$1,055
<b>December total Offerings</b>	\$21,063
<b>YTD Receipts</b>	\$261,690
<b>Copies of Trinity's monthly income, expenses and full budget breakdown are available in the Narthex.</b>	



Dear Friends at Trinity,

Thank you for the generous Christmas gift this year; it is greatly appreciated in this difficult year of 2020.

Best Wishes to all for 2021!

--Brenda Donoho