



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

EXPERIENCING AND SHARING JESUS

I hold you in my *Heart.*
for you are all partakers
with me of
Grace.

Philippians 1:7, ESV



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 of Trinity,

I have a simple suggestion for Lent. Many people have the tradition of giving something up for Lent, but I would suggest don't give anything up unless you replace it with more of the Lord. In Lent we reflect on the Lord Jesus Christ's journey to the cross. My sin and shame is dissolved. Forever His, by His sacrifice, we stand in a love that never ends. Drawing closer to Jesus means that you call Him more than Lord. He is also your glorious friend.



Let's reflect back to where Christ's public ministry began. What might Jesus have been praying as he waited with the others to go down to John in the Jordan? Jesus had no sin to confess, no need for repentance. The author of Hebrews gives us an idea of what might have been on Jesus' lips or in His silent prayer. Hebrews 10:5-7 says:

"Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

'Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,

but a body you prepared for me;

⁶with burnt offerings and sin offerings

you were not pleased.'

⁷Then I said, 'Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—

I have come to do your will, my God.'" Hebrew 10:5-7 (NIV)

As the people confessed their sins to God, being baptized in the Jordan, all those sins that washed away clung to Jesus like a magnet. "He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed. ²⁵ Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls." 1 Peter 2:24-25 (NLT)



What could we say? What words of gratitude could we pen or speak to fully express our appreciation? What could we do to thank Jesus for what He has done? He didn't want any help. All His disciples and apostles were dispersed as He walked the road alone to the cross, that God might receive a truly perfect sacrifice for sin.

From the point at which Jesus began His public ministry, He met people on the broken road of life. He lifted them beyond what plagued them into a glorious life that never ends. In the midst of life with all of its worries and cares, when your own thoughts or failings haunt you, stand in Jesus' love. Live life in love with Jesus. Encourage others to do the same with your words and actions. God glorifies Himself by shining as the Light of the world in the lives of those who believe in Jesus. In the end, what else will matter?

The apostle Paul is a great example. Before Jesus introduced Himself to Paul, the Pharisee competed with his brethren to meticulously keep all the rules and traditions. Jesus gave him a refreshing, peaceful perspective that the Lord also wants us to glory in: "This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: 'Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners'—and I am the worst of them all. ¹⁶ But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life." 1 Timothy 1:15-16 (NLT)

We have a priceless inheritance now, what a waste if we did not draw on its abundance and drink deep of the joy and love and peace and kindness that we find in Jesus. Here is where all of this becomes very personal for you. God's glory is revealed for us to cherish our Savior Jesus, our Lord and our glorious friend. The question is, will you trust Jesus for all of this? Will you welcome the call to serve and treasure his blood-bought gift for you? For others?

Blessing in Jesus,

Pastor Shawn

“Re”-Discovering Our Christian Roots



I've been watching a lot of TV lately. Who am I kidding, I've always watched quite a bit of TV, and COVID hasn't helped me to trim down my viewing very much. With so many programs cancelled or in rerun mode during the pandemic, I channel surf more than usual. Even with so many channels available, the remote often lands on good old PBS, and its' quality programming, not to mention very few commercials.

One TV show in particular, is something everyone can be happy that they've watched. "Finding Your Roots", hosted by John Henry Louis Gates, Jr. With usually three celebrities of some sort or another on each episode, it usually piques my interest. The foregone conclusion is that everyone on the show will learn something about their ancestry that they were hoping they would find. But they quite often learn as well, that not everything they learn will be something of which to be proud.

Many of the guests on the show have very little knowledge of their family tree, while others have heard amazing stories about their ancestry but it's often anecdotal. During the course of each episode, in a rotating fashion between each of the usually three (3) celebrities, more of their family history or mystery is revealed. We feel like we learn about them at the same time that they learn about themselves. Some stories are so heart wrenching with details of loss and abandonment that you wonder how they even could have survived... but they did! Others learn that they come from great wealth or privilege, and wonder why they still struggled to "make it" in America.

When Mr. Gates reveals facts and items of particular surprise to each guest, he has them turn the page in their new family history book, has them read something from the page and says "how does that make you feel?" As you can imagine, their responses are often similar to our own if we were in their shoes. Other times, they must give pause to their previous notions about their history, and what makes them who they are as a person, a family member and how this may change their outlook on life.

We're not celebrities. We're not famous people. It's not likely that any one of us will ever get a phone call from Mr. John Henry Louis Gates, Jr. He won't be asking if we want to be on "Finding Your Roots" because he's found something out about us that is simply amazing or unbelievable.

While that shouldn't be surprising, take heart! We've already got a family tree that goes back to the beginning. In our baptism, we are grafted into the Family of Jesus Christ! Jesus tells us we are his and we believe Him. In the gospel of Luke (see Luke 3:22) we are told "and The Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased." God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are present at our baptism as well. Luke continues to spell out the entire lineage of Jesus, all the way back to God the Father (see Luke 23-38). I invite you to turn the pages yourself, and see what is written in His Word.

Jesus has done the most unbelievable thing for us. He has adopted us into His Family! We are His!

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the roots of your family tree, which you have planted so firmly and grafted all of us into. May your Word flow through each of us freely. Encourage us by your Spirit, to grow ever stronger in faith, that we may also encourage others in life's journey. Help us to re-discover our roots, and speak your Word to those who are searching for their place in Your family.

In Jesus' Name,

Amen,

Kevin Donoho – Elder Chairman

President's Monthly Report to the Congregation

Dear members of Trinity,

By the authority given in the resolution adopted by the congregation at the special voters' assembly meeting on Sunday, January 10, 2021, we have retained Reifsteck Reid & Company, as architects, and Zion Church Builders, Inc., as construction manager, and we have started some of the initial preparatory work related to the construction of the new fellowship hall. The Building Committee, in consultation with the Parish Council, will be working with the architects (Chuck and Elsa Reifsteck) and construction manager (Jim Hinze) and the Building Committee will be responsible for making the day-to-day or routine decisions during the project. The resolution authorized expenditures for initial preparatory work not to exceed \$202,000.

Dave Kuehn, as chair of the Building Committee, has prepared a separate report in this month's newsletter with more details from the committee and its activities. Thanks, Building Committee! And special thanks to David Lange, as Treasurer, for watching over the related financial matters for us, and to Dan Roney, as Property Manager, for sharing his knowledge and experience regarding our church property.

Trinity has an excellent team working together on this important project!

Grace and peace,

Rick Winkel, President

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Building Committee

There has been much activity in relation to the building project for the new fellowship hall over the last few weeks beginning with a site visit from our construction manager, Zion Church Builders, Inc, on January 20. This was followed by a hazardous materials assessment on January 26, a topographic survey on January 29, and a subsurface testing that will occur soon, all of which are necessary before building details can proceed. Zion provided a preliminary total cost estimate of \$2,241,198 for the building project.

Our architect, Chuck Reifsteck from Reifsteck Reid & Company, provided the following tentative schedule for the building project:

- (a) *February 21, 2021: Schematic Design Phase:* verify the program, modify the preliminary concept if necessary, and confirm the estimated cost,
- (b) *March 21, Design Development Phase:* refine the design, select major systems, and select finishes,
- (c) *April-May 21, Construction Documents Phase (preparation of the "blue prints"):* detailed documents for bidding,
- (d) *June 21, Procurement Phase:* bidding and negotiations, congregational vote to proceed with construction,
- (e) *July 21-January 22, 2022:* construction.

David Kuehn

Building Committee Chair





Wee Disciples Preschool News

We began our second semester of preschool with a week of Zoom meetings in January and now we have been in-person each school day. I am so grateful that Wee Disciples Preschool is still going strong with full classes during the COVID pandemic. On the evening of January 25th we had a successful Family Fun Event via Zoom format. I really must thank our preschool families for supporting all the new ways we are providing preschool experiences

this year. Praise to God for guiding us and answering our prayers for a safe and healthy school year thus far!

Starting on February 1st, we begin our 2021-22 preschool year registration process for current students and Trinity families. This year the registration fee in February is \$50 for current students and Trinity families. Registration is open to the community starting on March 1st with a registration fee of \$75. If you know a family with preschool age children (3-5 years) who may be interested in our preschool program, please share with them that registration has begun. Registration flyers and program brochures are available right outside the preschool classroom. I am happy to answer any questions that families may have regarding our program. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email at weedisciplespreschool@yahoo.com.

February at Wee Disciples is filled with the study of Jesus and his ministry. We share that “We love, because God first loved us.” 1 John 4:19. Our class Valentine’s Day celebrations are planned for February 10 and 11. Also, there is no school on February 12 and 15 (President’s Day).

Thank you to Jim Wanagat for securing the roof on our playground storage shed in January. The Wanagats are always ready to lend a helping hand! Thank you for your time and kindness!

Sharing God’s love,

Karen Rohrer,
Director and Teacher

Operation Christmas Child



In case you missed it last month, our **Operation Christmas Child** boxes went to Ukraine. To make it easier during the pandemic, we asked that everybody take a box (or two), fill it and bring it back.

It’s something that families can do together. We had a total of 53 boxes. Please continue to pray for the boys or girls that received these boxes. Pray for the families to hear about Jesus Christ and grow in faith, hope and love. Pray also for the entire communities to be transformed as God’s love is shared through your simple gift!



Last month, we had a letter from Institution Olivier. In the same packet from Haiti we had a letter from the other school we feed, Yahve-Nissi. Please remember these kids and their families in your prayers. Ask for God's blessings for Stivenson Jean-Baptiste (former Trinity member) who is now a feeding program director in Haiti.



Trinity Hope drawing sheet

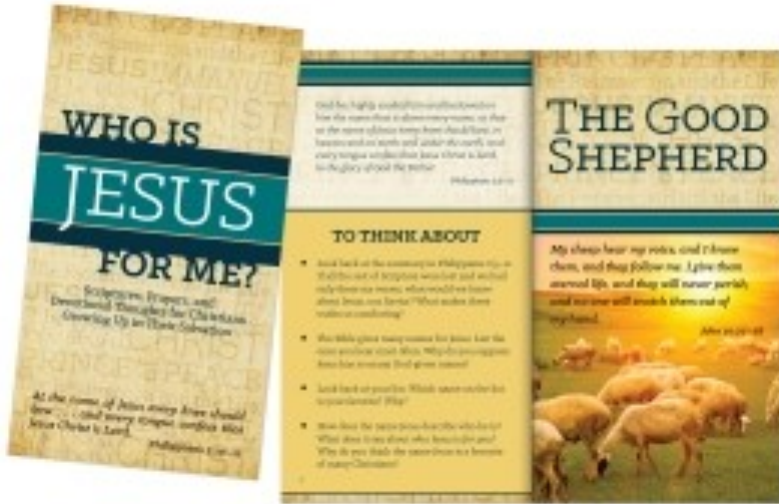
Name of the school... YAHVE-NISSI District... Bainet
Name and first name of the student... Monevil Oubier Month and Year... 2020



Special thanks. Dear sponsor

I am happy to feed you in the name of Jesus and I take this opportunity to
to thank you for the food that gives us. It gives us great pleasure when
We are gathered to consume this food. I pray continuously for you
so may God always give you the opportunity to help us more. thank you.
I wish you a merry christmas and a happy new year 2021
Bless you!

Lenten Devotional



Who Is Jesus For Me? Free Lenten devotional is now available. This book is written to help deepen understanding of Jesus by looking at several of the names given to Him. Each name reflects a different purpose and reveals a new facet of His love. After reading each section, then read the 'To Think About' section. Three or four points are offered up to pause and ponder, to deepen the meaning of the section you just read. Help yourself and others 'grow up into salvation' as you read this thought-provoking book.

Devotionals are available in the narthex and can be delivered too! Please contact the church office at 217-367-8923 if you would like to have one delivered to you.



Some believers tend to think that Christianity is all about not sinning and acting as perfect as possible. Some might also think that God gives us blessings in exchange for our good behavior. During Lent, let's consider how our Christian life revolves around our relationship with God. Eternal life isn't about just getting to heaven or being good. It's about being established in the love of Jesus Christ. On the Wednesday services during Lent, we'll explore the power of the names of Jesus. On the Sundays during Lent, we'll focus on the essentials. Those things that establish you and I in a growing and fruitful relationship with Jesus Christ and others.

Wednesdays

Our Wednesday worship services
will begin at 6:00 p.m.
February 17 Ash Wednesday,
February 24,
March 3, 10, 17 and 24

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 28
Maundy Thursday, April 1 at 6:00 p.m.
Good Friday, April 2 at 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, Easter Eve April 3 at 5:30 p.m.
Easter Sunday, April 4:
8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship

FEBRUARY



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

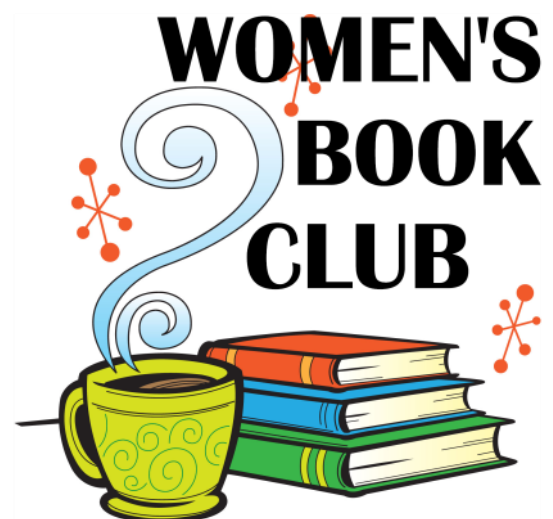
Birthdays

02/02	Robert McColley
02/06	Michael Ducey
	Gary Koester
	Linda Lindsay
02/07	Megan Althoff
02/09	Jeanne Umphenour
02/12	Liz Knocke
02/15	Daniel Lindsay
02/17	Matthew Boylan
02/18	Betty Strom
02/19	Seth Bull
02/20	Cody Witte
02/24	Chris Roegge
	Laura Wetherell
02/27	Jan Brooks
02/28	Mark Tomory
02/29	John Sheppelman

Anniversaries

02/10	Ernie & Jerilyn Parks (43 years)
02/14	Jennifer & Fredrick Holhubner Jr (33 years)
	Bill & Jeanne Umphenour (29 years)

For the Month of January	
January 3, 2020	\$2,952
January 10, 2021	\$8,220
January 17, 2021	\$4,586
January 24, 2021	\$2,098
January 31, 2021	\$4,399
January total Offerings	\$22,255
YTD Receipts	\$22,255
Copies of Trinity's monthly income, expenses and full budget breakdown are available in the Narthex.	



Ladies! It's not too late to join the women's book group. We have just started our latest book- "What Made Jesus Mad" by Tim Harlow. We meet via zoom the 1st and 3rd Monday's of the month from 7-8 p.m. Contact Rise Lange at riselange@icloud.com for details.