



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

EXPERIENCING AND SHARING JESUS



So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns
and the purple robe. Pilate said to them,
“BEHOLD THE MAN!”

John 19:5, 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 Members and Friend of Trinity,

Christians in America and around the world are in a unique and challenging situation because of COVID-19.

- In August 2020, Pew Research Center, a nonprofit and one of the least biased and most reliable polling organizations in the country, published that about half of U.S. adults who typically attended religious services appear to have substituted virtual participation for in-person attendance.*
- Roughly a quarter of regular worship attenders appear to be supplementing in-person attendance with virtual participation: They have both attended religious services and watched them online or on TV in the last month.*



It's a blessing that we're on Zoom. We record worship services, and post them online. Now the reason why I mention this is to give us perspective. This a radical shift from how we have always done church. It's not clear at this point how things will change. In other words, as more people are vaccinated, as COVID fears wane; have new patterns formed for us? Will church online be a "new normal" for people?

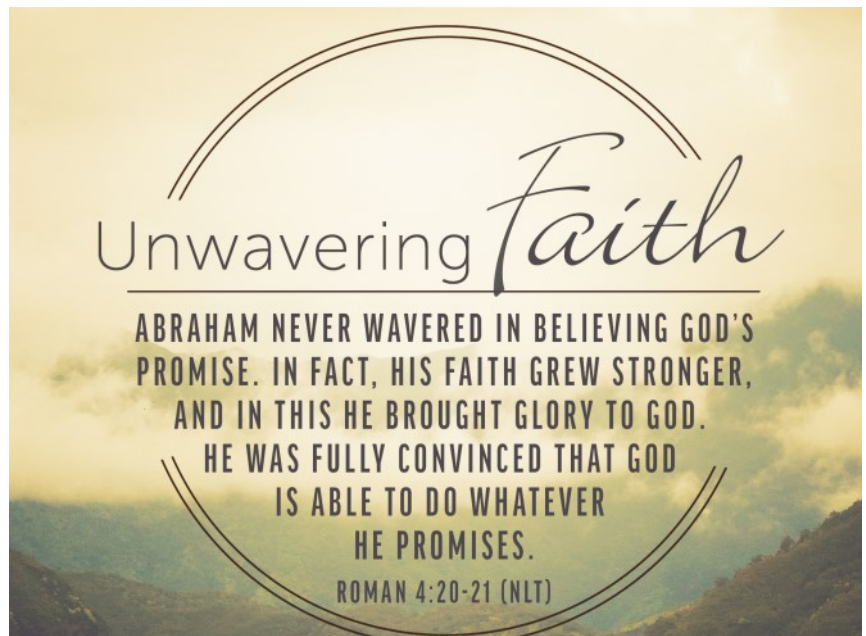
While it might seem that this crisis has made us more distant, I think it has served to bring us closer in ways that we wouldn't have used before. This crisis has made us much more aware of the relationships that we have in our lives. It's made us want to preserve those relationships more than ever. Thus, at church, we are connecting virtually. In our family, Jill and I for example, meet weekly with our kids on Zoom. We wouldn't have done this before the pandemic.

The Greatest Relationship: We are God's Children.

What's good for us to have on our evangelical radar is that church is not so much about a building or the programs we do. Church has and always will be about a relationship with God and with others. A positive takeaway from this pandemic is the importance of relationships.

What we need at this time is some deep, quiet, unshakable truth from God's Word to give us our bearings, keep us on course, provide ballast in the ship, and to help us be relaxed and believing that God is in control.

God said to Abraham in Genesis 17:4, "Behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations" (NKJV). But Genesis makes it clear that Abraham did not father a multitude of nations in a physical or political sense. When God said to Abraham 4,000 years ago, "I have made you a father of many nations" Genesis 17:5 (NIV), God had in view that Jesus Christ would be the descendant of Abraham.



The meaning of God's promise turned out to be that a multitude of nations would somehow enjoy the blessings of sonship. Not the sonship blessings that Abraham's son Isaac received. Something much greater. We receive the blessings of Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God. Christ opens a relationship with God by His life of perfect obedience and innocent suffering.

There is a depth of wisdom and blessings in Christ that we just cannot see. How much grace do we miss: grace for work, school, marriage, finances, your health, church. Abraham could obey God even when obedience looked like a dead-end street because he knew that God was working to do what he promised to do. God chooses to speak to people through people who speak and live out His Word graciously, faithfully, and wisely. “And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father” Colossians 3:17 (NLT).



And it's truly astounding that the only candidates for the blessing of Abraham are sinners. Not even Abraham could have enjoyed the blessing of Abraham if Jesus hadn't come. Abraham, too, was a sinner. Our hope is in the Lord, and “my prayer is that our fellowship will bring about a deeper understanding of every blessing which we have in our life in union with Christ” (Philemon 6, GNT).

Blessings in Jesus,

[*https://www.pewforum.org/2020/08/07/attending-and-watching-religious-services-in-the-age-of-the-coronavirus/](https://www.pewforum.org/2020/08/07/attending-and-watching-religious-services-in-the-age-of-the-coronavirus/)

President's Monthly Report to the Congregation

Dear members of Trinity,

As we enter March, I am reminded that it has been nearly a year that we have been dealing with the COVID pandemic. It has changed how we interact act with each other. We all know the mitigation drill ... wear masks, keep our distance from one another, and isolate ourselves if we test positive or have symptoms. This has disrupted our sense of fellowship and community in ways that we are only now beginning to understand.

I ask that we prayerfully consider how this has impacted us as individuals and as a congregation. While we have faithfully and courageously adapted to the pandemic, I believe that we need to be mindful of the spiritual burden of our being physically apart from our church community over so many months and its impact on our congregation.

The opportunities for church fellowship are few and far apart. We must not let ourselves drift apart, rather we need to undertake special efforts to stay connected in fellowship. And as we see the pandemic take its toll on our brothers and sisters in Christ, we need to pray for each other, and reach out and call and check with each other on how we are doing and how we might help.

As Jesus has taught us –

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. (2016). (Jn 13:34–35). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Over the past year, I praise God that so many of you have done a wonderful job of staying in touch and caring for one another. I pray we all take this to heart and join in joyfully keeping this Christian fellowship as best we can -including me!

And praise God that we are a congregation of great hope. In the middle of a pandemic, we are building a new fellowship hall.

Grace and peace,

Rick Winkel, President

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rwinkeljr@live.com

It's Not Easy Being Green



What was the first thing that came to mind when you read the title above? I'm guessing it was Kermit the Frog, from Sesame Street. If you thought of something else, then my apologies and please bear with me. If you did think of Kermit, then I'll try not to disappoint, and connect those messages learned early on Sesame Street, with our current year-long pandemic and our road to recovery which may be leaving many of us feeling, well... **GREEN**. For those of you with small kids, this month's message, is safe for children of all ages! Like Jill's children's message, even the adults get something out of a message tailored for youngsters. The Word of God knows no boundaries, including his people from age 1 to 100!

It may sound childish, but sometimes I miss watching Sesame Street. As a country kid from a truly small town (pop. 300) that "new" show called Sesame Street was a great way to see people and places I'd never seen before. It was also a terrific way for Mom to get something done around the house while being assured, the kids would be occupied and receive wholesome entertainment. Its' blend of real life situations and actors, coupled with puppets called "Muppets" and other friendly monsters could entertain and educate at the same time. There were catchy jingles, corny jokes, silly situations, spilling things, breaking stuff etc. The amazing part is that we learned valuable lessons in the process of viewing. Skits like counting with "The Count", or negotiating with the ultimate grump known as Oscar the Grouch in his garbage can home. Larger than life characters like Big Bird and his imaginary friend Snuffleupagus, were mesmerizing, because they didn't hide behind a fence, wall or box like the other Muppets did.

I think every fan of the show, has their favorite character(s). My favorites were Ernie & Bert. Others were equally entertaining, but these two seemed to characterize the more common situations that I could relate to. Situations like cutting a pizza or sharing with friends. Going into each situation with these two, you learned pretty quickly that Ernie would mess something up and Bert would almost always pay the price.

Kermit the frog is also a lovable character, whose unlikely appeal may stem from his timid voice and weak stature. As a frog, he's often left explaining why he has to do things differently than others. He may be too weak, or too scared to tackle the task that lies before him. Even his skinny legs were often joked about. As a character who also sang when the moment was right, Kermit wasn't shy. Kermit singing the song "It's Not Easy Being Green", was intended to showcase how it is often difficult to be different than everyone else. The song also has a way of summing up exactly who Kermit is and what he can do by himself. We however, aren't alone. Life can throw so much at you, but with Jesus' help you can overcome, no matter how **GREEN** you may feel.

By March of last year, we were just starting to experience the seriousness of this pandemic. Over a year into the pandemic now and the tide is turning, but this test isn't over yet. Vaccinations are on the rise, and hope grows daily. Doing what we can to bring some sort of normalcy to our daily lives, is reassuring. It also helps us to battle the feeling like every day is the same. It's not easy being, me. It's not easy being, you. Jesus knows exactly how green we may feel, and He knows what we need. Take all requests to Jesus, and he will answer.

Dear Heavenly Father,

You are the source of all Hope. Help us to recognize your presence in these troubling times. When loneliness, anxiety and separation drag us down, lift us up with Your Word. Help us to hear your voice when we least expect it. Help us to reach out to others in need. Make us vessels of Your Love that overflow to those around us. Send Your Spirit to guide us to be strong examples of that love in our community.

In Jesus' Name,

Amen,

Kevin Donoho – Elder Chairman

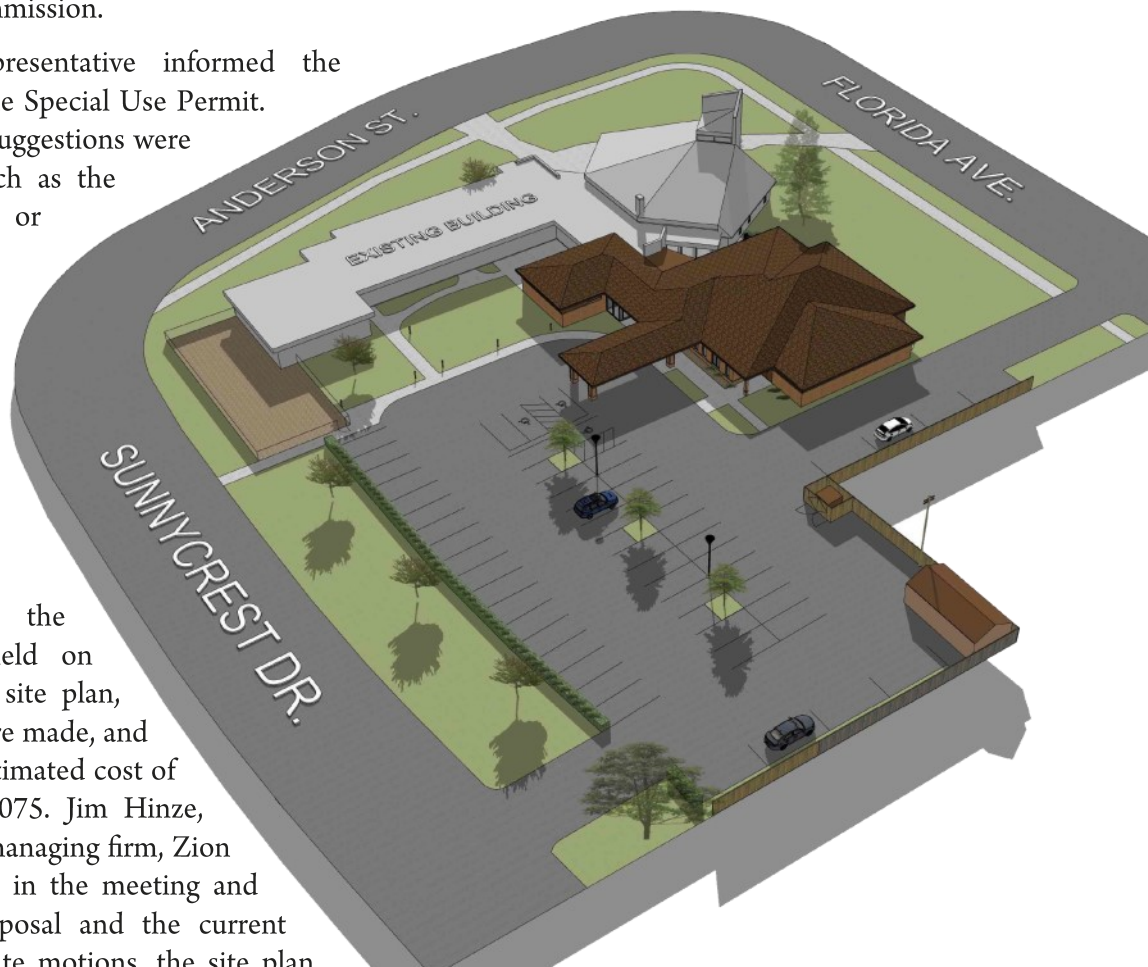
Building Committee Report

When our church was built in the 1950s the neighborhood was zoned as R-1 residential and we were permitted use within this zoning designation. However, changes were made by the city of Urbana in the 1970s and the area was rezoned as R-2 residential. As a result, we are required to apply for a Special Use Permit if any new construction is to be carried out. We will do so at a City of Urbana Plan Commission meeting on March 4, 2021. The Plan Commission recommended that we conduct a meeting with our neighbors in the area to inform them of the new construction plans and invite them to offer input with questions and any concerns that they might have in relation to the new construction including expansion of the parking lot. An invitation by letter was sent to 53 names/addresses that were sent to us by the Plan Commission inviting individuals to participate in a Zoom meeting. The meeting was held on February 18 in which several of our neighbors did participate along with the Building Committee members and a representative of the Plan Commission.

The Plan Commission representative informed the neighbors of the reason for the Special Use Permit. Following his report, several suggestions were offered by the neighbors such as the need for screening (fencing or landscape) along the borders of our expanded parking lot and our immediate neighbors along Sunnycrest Drive and Florida Avenue. All of these suggestions were taken into account and the site plan was modified accordingly.

A subsequent meeting by the Building Committee was held on February 25 to approve the site plan, including the changes that were made, and also to approve the current estimated cost of the project which is \$2,212,075. Jim Hinze, Director of the construction managing firm, Zion Church Builders, participated in the meeting and supported the site plan proposal and the current estimated cost. In two separate motions, the site plan proposal (schematic design documents) and the cost estimate were approved unanimously by the Building Committee members. These results are being passed on to the Parish Council. Approving these items allows the building project to move from the Schematic Design Phase to the Design Development Phase which will refine the design, select major systems, and select finishes.

David Kuehn
Building Committee Chair





Wee Disciples Preschool News

Starting on March 1, Wee Disciples begins community registration for the 2021-22 school year. The registration fee is \$75 for all new students. If you know of any families with preschool age children who may be interested in our preschool program, please share with them that registration has begun. Registration forms and program brochures are available right outside the preschool classroom. We also have a wealth of information on the church/

preschool website at www.trinity-urbana.org. I am happy to answer any questions that families may have regarding our program. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

During the month of March, we will focus our Bible Time on learning about Jesus and his work. We will discuss the Parables that Jesus told and will read accounts of the amazing miracles that Jesus preformed to teach of God's love and grace to everyone. Also, in the month of March we will finish up our unit on the Wild West and begin a unit of study on space and planets.

On March 11 and 12, we have no school and offer a second Parent Teacher Conference time for families. Families may choose in-person or Zoom conferences. Spring Break is March 15-19. We will have a week of remote Zoom learning coming back from Spring Break on March 22-26th. On March 29th we return to in-person preschool for the remainder of the school year.

Thank you to everyone for your prayers for the preschool, our students and families, and the staff. This year has been amazing with challenges and changes due to COVID-19. I feel so grateful for the success of remaining open so far this school year. God is so good!

God's Blessings,

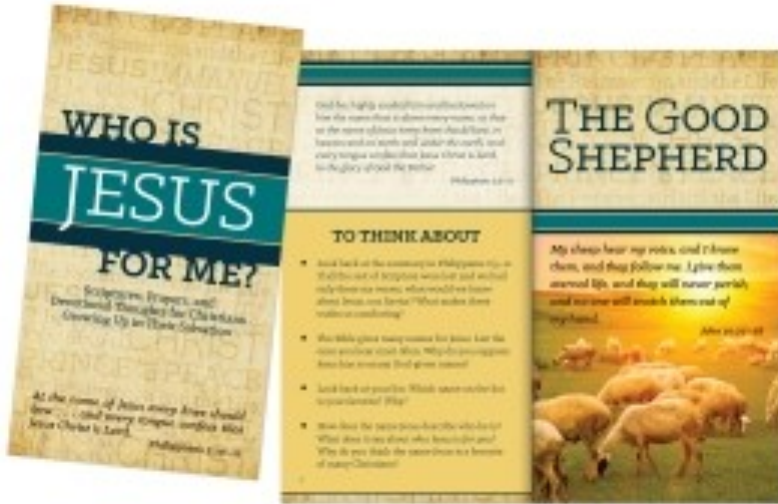
Karen Rohrer,
Director and Teacher

Altar Flower Sign-up



Reminder that the 2021 Altar Flower sign-up poster is on the bulletin board next to the office. Or contact the church office to sign up. Flowers continue to be \$25.00 per arrangement. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to keeping such beautiful flower displays at our church services each week.

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 still 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 evening Lenten worship services continue during the month of March
 March 3, 10, 17 and 24 at 6:00 p.m.

For online Zoom access or
 to sign up for in-person worship go to:

<http://trinity-urbana.org/events/wednesday-lenten-services/>

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

MARCH



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

03/04	Jess Strong
03/05	Mary Johnson
03/08	Bob Frank Benjamin Stremming
03/09	Judy Roegge
03/11	Gayle Holderfield Jerilyn Parks
03/13	James Rossow
03/14	Lavonne Schmidt Nicholas Williams
03/17	Nancy Otis
03/18	Bryan Holderfield Marcia Messman
03/19	Dave Kuehn
03/25	Barbara Witte
03/27	Samuel Wetherell
03/29	Sterling Rouse
03/30	Merill Strater
03/31	James Cox Kristy Umphenour

Anniversaries

03/03	David & Andrea Nation (37 years)
03/28	Jhane Reifsteck & Felipe Contreras (6 years)

For the Month of February

February 7, 2020	\$5,755
February 14, 2021	\$4,188
February 21, 2021	\$2,718
February 28, 2021	\$3,392
February total Offerings	\$16,053
YTD Receipts	\$38,308
Copies of Trinity's monthly income, expenses and full budget breakdown are available in the Narthex.	



Don't Forget!
 Daylight Savings
 Time begins on
 March 14!

Spring
 Forward!