



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

EXPERIENCING AND SHARING JESUS

May 2021



The LORD loves
righteousness and justice;
the earth is full
of his unfailing love.

PSALM 33:5, NIV

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

More Than a Building

The message of Haggai is tailor-made for us at Trinity Urbana. Haggai is a prophetic book of the Old Testament. The backdrop is the rebuilding of the Temple that was destroyed when God's people went into exile. True, we're not rebuilding a Temple reminiscent of what King Solomon built. True, we're not returning from exile in Babylon, where the wrath of God's judgement had cast them, since, for centuries, the majority of the people ignored God's Word and the prophets who preached it to them.



No, we're so very different from them that it's really hard to imagine their world; but the book speaks to us because God gave it to all people, for all time. Consider the fact that they were engaged in a building project to enhance their ministry, and also, that they fell prey to sin and temptation such as would afflict any group undertaking such a building project for the Lord.

My essential assumption is that we, the members of Trinity, just as the people of Haggai's day, are engaged in something that LORD Almighty seriously wants done. If that, too, is your sentiment, then I invite you to read on because, for this month and the next, I want to glean a few points from Haggai, which, I sincerely pray, would encourage us in our building project. And of course, my real hope is that you would do even more; namely, first pray and then read Haggai for yourself with an open mind that the Spirit can use.

What's exciting to me is that we voted with a staggering majority to take this on—demolish our current fellowship hall, and build a new one. This is just the beginning. After returning from Babylonian captivity, the Jews began rebuilding the temple of God. But before long they set aside that task to work on their own homes. Haggai reminded them to put God first.

Haggai says, "This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways" (Haggai 1:7, NIV). Basically, the building is not really the goal, worshipping God is. A deeper relationship with Christ is. In fact, Haggai made the case that their spiritual life is more important than anything else in their lives. If they invest time and effort in their spiritual lives the building project will be just fine. The use of the building, and even their lives, will be blessed.

Fortunately, the nobles, governor, priests and people responded with positive enthusiasm to Haggai's message:

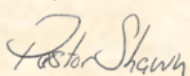
"Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the LORD their God and the message of the prophet Haggai, because the LORD their God had sent him. And the people feared the LORD" Haggai 1:12 (NIV).

But the backstory is that, "Haggai, the LORD's messenger, gave the people this message from the LORD: "I am with you, says the LORD!" This is what we need to be reminded of, because this is where our strength and blessing really come from. Lots of people build buildings, but not everybody builds a deep and endearing faith in Christ.

God-pleasing success in any building project is more than money, more than good plans and good workers. God looks at the heart. So, my word to you is, "Take heart, the LORD Almighty is with you." Stay strong in your devotions and in reading God's word (Colossians 3:15-17), trust God in every little thing knowing that He cares for you (Philippians 4:4-7, 1 Peter 5:7, Psalm 55:22), be faithful in fellowship (Psalm 122:1) and live a life of love (Romans 13:10, Ephesians 5:1).

"He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it." 1 Thessalonians 5:24 (NKJV)

Blessings in Jesus,





So Far Away, Yet So Close to the Heart



It's probably my fault that the newsletter is arriving this late to your inbox. My apologies. From the last weekend of April through late on May 1st we've been in travel mode, and living out of our suitcases. As you've likely already heard by now our first grandchild, was born. Brendan Aiden Donoho arrived in the world and joined the rest of us on Friday, April 23rd. Just 2 days before Brenda's birthday on the 25th. He breathed his first breath at 11:28 am, while tipping the scale at a healthy 7 pounds, 9 ounces and measuring 20 inches long.



We've all anxiously anticipated his arrival, since learning about our Son & Daughter-in-Law's pregnancy in 2020. With so many uncertainties circulating about COVID safety during pregnancy, we did what we should be doing all the time. We trusted in God's plan, and prayed. He arrived over a week later than his planned delivery date of April 14th. Brendan had other "plans" for his birthday.

It's a long way to Halma, MN. Google says the 837 mile trip takes 12 hours and 56 minutes to drive there from Mahomet. Our idea of a driving trip doesn't include driving constantly with the only stops for gasoline, food and bathroom breaks. We broke up the adventure by stopping in St. Paul, MN and stayed overnight with our Daughter (Hannah) and Son-In-Law (Gabe). Seeing their faces after months apart was a blessing of its own.

After re-loading our necessities the following morning, we resumed our drive for our brief trip "up North" to meet our grandson (and of course to help out the new parents). It seemed like it was going to take forever to get there.

We got numerous texts and messages leading up to and including his eventual birth on the 23rd which helped make the drive tolerable. All went well, and Mom (Heather) and Dad (Dale) are doing fine, except for getting used to a greatly altered sleep routine. They were glad to see us, and very appreciative of any help and advice we shared. Brenda had prepared food ahead of time, which we packed and transported with us, which made that part of our days that much better. Although there may have only been one (1) meal where we were all together at the table at once, because the tag team process had already begun.

When Brendan was napping or nursing, Dale and I had some time to bond again as well. We managed to re-set the clothes line posts in concrete and re-string 4 new lines which made the whole family happy. We finished a couple other indoor projects as well that will make things more comfortable for everyone, including Brendan.

The simplest of things bring the greatest joy. Simply holding this warm new bundle in our arms and looking into his eyes, while he gazed back and gathered in his surroundings was wonderful. We know that the next time we see him, he'll have changed in many ways and have grown by leaps and bounds. On our last morning there, we watched a bounty of birds, chipmunks and squirrels outside the picture window. While Brenda held him and looked outside, Heather was already teaching Brendan his first lesson in bird identification. I'm sure Dale will cover tree identification soon enough.



To the parents out there, I hope these few sentences bring back some fond memories of those early days as a parent. To the Grandparents out there, so far everything I've heard is true. It's pretty good stuff. To everyone, I'm reminded of the significance of Jesus words, about remaining connected to him, so that we bear much fruit (regardless of where we are, who we are with, or how far we may be apart from those we love). Jesus tells us (see John 15:1-17) ... "Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me."



Leaving Minnesota to head back home was tough. It really tugged at our heart strings. We talked about Brendan and everything we'd observed about him. We imagined what changes are coming, and how Dale & Heather will carry on without our resident help. Parents and children have managed before, and I'm sure they're doing fine on their own. We also know, they can call us anytime and we will answer. Before we had even crossed the Kittson County line, we were already thinking about our next trip up north. Until then, Brendan, Heather & Dale will stay close to our hearts, until we meet again.



Dear Heavenly Father,

Help all who seek your loving embrace, to feel your presence. Send Your Holy Spirit into the lives of Your people, to provide comfort during these times when distance can keep us apart. Allow your plans to well up in us, as you guide our daily lives. Encourage us to be a shoulder to lean on for those in need. Help us to listen closely to the needs of those in our community, your church and our families so that we may be your hands and feet in this world. Lord Jesus, abide in us and remain close to our hearts. Be our ever-present rock, when space and time threaten to shake our personal foundations. Be with everyone young and young at heart, so they know you are watching over them, and have your loving arms around them to comfort them always.

In Jesus Name, Amen,

Kevin Donoho – Elder Chairman



Wee Disciples Preschool News

Wee Disciples Preschool is currently offering registration for the 2021-22 school year. The registration fee is \$75. If you know of any families with preschool age children who may be interested in our preschool program, please share with them that they can register at any time. Registration forms and program brochures are available right

outside the preschool classroom. For the 2021-22 school year, we offer 3 options for families interested in our preschool program. A student can enroll in a 5-day class, 3-day Monday, Wednesday, Friday class with up to 15 students and two teachers or a 2-day Tuesday and Thursday class with up to 13 students and two teachers. Our classes meet from 8:30 am until 11:30 am. For more information about our quality Christian Early Childhood program please visit our church website and link to the preschool section. The website is www.trinity-urbana.org.

During the month of May, we will focus our Bible Time on the “fruits of the spirit.” We learn the verse from Galatians 5:22-23 which states “the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” The students are learning that when Jesus is in their hearts that they have the “fruit of the spirit.” It has been such a joy teaching God’s love to the children this past school year. I see evidence of their spiritual growth each day. Thank you to the entire Trinity Church family for making this program possible in order to spread the good news to the children of Wee Disciples.

May is full of fun activities for our students at Wee Disciples. To begin the month, we will learn all about rhyming and numbers. For the last two weeks of preschool, we celebrate Fun Days with a Pajama day, Superhero Day, Bubble Day, Sports day, Silly Hat Day, and Backwards day. On May 20, we end the school year with a Moving Up and On Program. May 21 is our last official day of preschool for the 2020-21 school year.

God’s Blessings,

Karen Rohrer,
Director and Teacher

President's Report

Thank you to everyone who has been working on the Trinity's building project!

On April 25, the congregation in a Special Voters' Assembly voted to approve a resolution (1) to complete the building project, including the demolition of the current fellowship hall and for the erection of a new building by the congregation that may be used as a fellowship hall and for other uses that may enhance the ministry of our congregation, and for improvements to the parking lot and other church property, and for necessary equipment and furnishings, and that the total cost of the Project shall not exceed \$2,250,000; and (2) to apply for a loan with the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund, Inc. in the amount of \$ 1,000,000 to finance the project.

During the special meeting, as President, I opened by announcing the quorum and explained the agenda and the voting process in a "hybrid meeting", (i.e., simultaneous attendance by our members in-person in the sanctuary and online by Zoom webinar). Then, the Building Committee Chair, Dave Kuehn and our architects, Chuck Reifsteck and Elsa Reifsteck, gave us an update on the building project, which was followed by our Treasurer, David Lange who gave us a financial report on Trinity related to the building project and the need for a mortgage loan.

When these presentations were completed, I presented the resolution to the congregation, (which had been approved for consideration by the congregation by the Parish Council on April 20), and then I moved for the adoption of the resolution by the congregation to authorize the construction of a building and to apply for a mortgage. The members then discussed the resolution and voted (53-5) to adopt it. The resolution was the only item requiring a vote on the agenda in this special meeting.

On behalf of the congregation, we signed the mortgage loan application and submitted it for approval on April 26. Once approved, we hope to have a groundbreaking ceremony by July, and construction could be completed by the end of the year.

Our next regular Voters' Assembly meeting is scheduled on Sunday, June 27. It will be a "regular" meeting, which means that we will have a full agenda, including such things as the draft minutes from previous meetings for approval, reports from Trinity's Parish Council, Ministry Council, and Boards and Committees, and old and new business.

My prayer continues to be that we do God's will as we move forward, and that we act out of love for Him and for one another.

Grace and peace,

Rick Winkel,
President



Building Committee Report

Following the enabling resolution approved by the voters at the Special Voters' Meeting on April 25, the building project continues to move forward. The final construction drawings are being drafted and are expected to be finished by early May. The draft drawings will be reviewed by the Reifsteck Reid office staff for quality control in mid-May. Architect Elsa Reifsteck then will make any changes that are needed in the construction drawings by the end of May. The construction drawings will be given to Jim Hinze, Zion Church Builders, who will begin the bid process from various subcontractors to select the best choices, including budgetary considerations. Subcontractor bids are expected to be reviewed by mid-June. Based on these bids, a final cost for the construction project will be determined and should be available by the end of June.

David Kuehn
Building Committee Chair



thrivent® News

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As most of you know by now, Covid 19 struck our nation just as we were starting our Capital Campaign to support the addition of a new fellowship hall. Because of this we had to suspend the project until a point where we were comfortable with the reactivation of the campaign. This process was to consist of 3 components, one the general campaign to ask for cash donations and 3 year pledges. This has been completed through our All Are Welcome pledge drive last November. God has blessed us through the first part with pledges and contributions of approximately \$1.4 million. This still leaves us with a short fall in which we are taking out a loan to cover cash flow and the additional cost of the project. A mortgage was approved at the Special Voters' meeting of April 25, 2021 to cover the additional cost. As for the other 2 pieces of the campaign that we still need to complete one is, in home visits with members, which will still be difficult at this time, and the other is, Advanced Gifting and Estate Planning. We will be proceeding with this aspect of the campaign and I would like to invite all of you to join us for a meeting on June 6 at 12:30 pm in the Sanctuary or by video link to discuss different options for Planned Gifting. We will have a video presentation provided to us by our consulting group and information we will provide additional resources to guide you in your deliberation of how you can further help support this project. We ask that if you would like to attend either in person or by video that you contact Mike in the church office to register. This will allow us to prepare enough material for the event. Please provide an email so that we can send you any handout material that we will be using if you are participating by Zoom. God bless you in your deliberation in these matters.

He is Risen!



Correspondence from **Yahve-Nissi & Institution Olivier**

March 2021

Dear Members of Trinity,

Greetings in Christ Jesus, from the children in Haiti and the ministry of Trinity HOPE. The school year is now half over, and the children continue to be blessed by the nutritious meal you are providing them every school day. For the most part, Haiti has been spared the wide-spread challenges we are facing here in the U.S. with the COVID-19 virus. Despite limited medical resources and an inability to effectively social distance in the densely populated areas, God has continued to protect most Haitians from the worst of the pandemic. The children continue to be able to go to school in person, and many of the kids are wearing masks in their classrooms. This is a tremendous blessing considering remote learning is really not an option in Haiti.

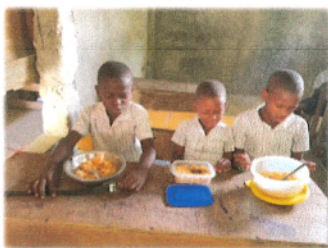
Unfortunately, the same good news is not the case for the current political conditions in Haiti. Due to the ongoing political turmoil, centered around the strong disapproval and controversy with their current president, safety remains a huge concern. In some of the worst areas, these conditions are preventing parents from sending their children to school because they do not want them walking on the streets. Please continue to pray for the people of Haiti, asking God to protect them and lead them through this difficult time.

Throughout the ups-and-downs of everyday life in Haiti, one thing remains grounded in truth...Jesus Christ is still on the throne of victory and is the source of true HOPE for the those in Haiti and throughout the world. By providing a meal to the children at your Christian school, you are enabling them to be fed a bowl of rice and beans for their stomachs and fed The Word of God for their heart and soul. It is this combination that will eventually change Haiti forever. THANK YOU for your dedication and commitment to these children! You are truly making a difference.

Enclosed is your school correspondence package from the children you sponsor in Haiti. We hope their drawings, photos, and notes warms your heart and brings a smile to your face. Thank you again for your support, and may God continue to bless you and your family.

Serving Christ Together –


Keith Logan





MAY



Birthdays

- 5/1 Brittany Ashmore
5/4 Carl Meyer
Fredrick Holhubner Jr.
5/5 Scott Stricker
5/6 Phyllis Johnston
5/8 Pam Hull
Landon Summers
Silas Wetherell
5/9 Denny Kane
5/12 Jessica Dickson
Micah Lange
Faith Wetzel
5/13 Mary Stremming
Lucia Wetherell
5/14 Doug Bull
Kathy Bull
5/22 Michael Murphy
5/23 Juanita Steer
5/24 Phyllis Mennenga
5/25 Damani McWilliams
5/26 Pam Hahn
5/27 Melissa Matthews
5/28 Pastor Shawn
5/29 Senait Stifanos

Anniversaries

- 5/3 Skeeter & Dave Summers (41 years)
5/21 Richard & Carrie Kubetz (44 years)
5/23 Ruth & Bill Benton (50 years)
5/25 Janet Boerngen & Michael Ducey (36 years)

For the Month of April

April 4, 2021	\$6,575
April 11, 2021	\$3,908
April 18, 2021	\$4,010
April 25, 2021	\$6,477
April total Offerings	\$20,970
YTD Receipts	\$83,294
Copies of Trinity's monthly income, expenses and full budget breakdown are available in the Narthex.	

Trinity Small Groups

Please reach out to the individual group leaders for additional meeting details.



- Women's Book Group - 7 p.m.-1st and 3rd Mondays via Zoom. (Risë Lange, riselange@icloud.com)
- Pieces of Love at church (Jennifer Holhubner)
- Cottage Bible Study at homes (Mary Jo Rott)
- Women in Mission at church - "LWML (WIM) will meet in person in the church sanctuary on Tuesday, May 11 at 6:30 pm. All ladies in the church are welcome to join us." - Faith Wetzel
- Tuesday Bible Study (Pastor Ehlers) - bible class will remain in recess through the summer. Pastor Ehlers is recovering from a knee injury but is looking forward to resuming the class in September. . Please keep Pastor Ehlers in your prayers.
- 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)