



MAY 2025



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Dear Friends in Christ:

Do we know how we are kept and strengthened in the Christian faith?

God the Holy Spirit works through the Word (Bible) and the Sacraments (Baptism and Lord's Supper) to build, strengthen and keep us in the saving faith.

Do we know what would happen if we would not eat for several weeks? We would die. We cannot live without food, for that is how God made us.

Exactly the same thing happens to us spiritually if we stop reading and hearing God's Word and going to the Lord's Supper. We weaken spiritually. Gradually it becomes easier for us to then sin: to curse, lie, think unclean thoughts and do unclean deeds. We will fail spiritually if we neglect God's Word and Sacraments. That's why God pleads with us to hear His Word and receive the Lord's Supper. If Jesus loved us enough to suffer and die for us and our sins on the cross, and if He knows what is best for us, and He offers it can we refuse?

God's Word strengthens our faith, gives us hope, courage, comfort, peace, joy and an eternal future! "Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it," Luke 11:28.

Yours In Christ,
Vacancy Pastor Joel Cluver



Seeing where God is

We know that God is the Creator of everything. So do you look at the wonderful things around us to see his work? Our family has for the last four years vacationed on Hilton Head Island, SC. It is a wonderful and beautiful place. We go kayaking and explore different parts of the Island.

While we were kayaking, our guide talked about the tidal creek. I knew that the tide was affected by the moon, but always thought it did not vary much. The tide around Hilton Head is from five to ten feet! The difference is the alignment of the Earth, Sun and Moon. The highest tides are when the Sun and Moon create the greatest gravitational pull.

Oysters. I never realized the amount of oysters that Hilton Head had until our first year here. When we kayaked our first year, the number one rule was, if you fall out into the water, do not move. This is because the oysters in the water are as sharp as a razor blades and will cut your foot, but they are a part of cleaning the water. An oyster will filter 20 gallons of water a day. Plus, they can live in and out of the water, so when the tide is low you can see the oysters on the oyster bed (we would call this a sandbar).

Hilton Head was initially inhabited by the Escamacu tribe and later replaced by the Yemassee tribe. In 1663, Captain William Hilton surveyed the island and named it after himself. Then English settlers established plantations, and enslaved West Africans were brought to the Island to work on those plantations.

After the Civil War, the plantation owners left the island. The Gullah people left here were the descendants of the enslaved West Africans. They developed a unique culture and language. They lived in Mitchelville; the first self-governed freedman's town in the United States.

Hilton Head from that point became a hunting retreat for the wealthy. Then, the Honey Horn House was sold for the timber to be harvested. After harvesting the timber, the Hacks and the Frasers, who owned two-thirds of the land, turned to developing and preserving the land. The only access to the island was by ferry. In 1956, the J. Byrnes Bridge was built, leading to the present day Hilton Head Island.

So where is God in this? The Island was His creation because He is the creator. Same with the ecosystem and all the other wonderful things of nature. In Genesis it says, "God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day."

So why have we not always preserved what God has made? There are animals that he has given us, and we have either made them extinct or endangered. (*continued on next page*)

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So why do we treat certain people with attitudes? The Father and the Son did not. For it says in John, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

The one thing that this world has is a sinful nature, and only the Blood of Jesus Christ can give Eternal Life over Eternal Death. And we always need to remember God is Omnipresent, Omnipotent, and Omniscient. Because of these three attributes of God, we know that he is always in control. When we look at this world and the things going on, we will see all three of these attributes by praying, listening, and looking to the scriptures.

David Nation



SPRING VOTERS' MEETING
SUNDAY, MAY 4
@12:15
CHURCH SANCTUARY

Dear Trinity Family and Friends:

It is with a sad and heavy heart that I must say my goodbyes to you all, as I bid farewell to east central Illinois. I have had to leave the only part of this state (Philo and Urbana) that I have known for the past 52 years. But more importantly, I have left you dear people behind. I am so grateful to you all for the prayers, love and physical support that you have provided, not just in the last few months, but in recent months and years. I am so disappointed not to share with you personally some of the hugs and love you've given to me. I'm missing you already. Recent prayers, cards and visits have lifted my spirits. Thank you with all my heart for all you have given to me.

I was substantially weakened by three hospitalizations in three months, plus a six-week nursing home stay. All of which left me unable to continue living alone in Urbana.

I am now located at Blair House, 122 E College Avenue, Apt. 122, Normal, IL 61761. It is an independent living facility and is near my nurse friend and new medical care. I am blessed to already feel stronger, and am ready to tackle physical therapy for the process to continue. My love and prayers will continue to come your way.

God bless you all,
Phyllis Johnston (217) 493-5667



Pastor Brian McQuiggin has decided to decline the Call we extended to him. Here is his message to us:

Thank you for your patience as I prayed and deliberated over this Call. It is with a heavy heart that I am writing to let you know that I have decided to decline the Call to serve as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church. After a great deal of prayer and reflection, I believe that God is leading me to continue my ministry at River of LIFE Lutheran in Saint Peter, Minnesota. As I mentioned during the interview, there are many new things happening at River of LIFE, and I feel that to leave at this point, it would be detrimental to my ministry as a pastor as well as to the congregation as a whole.

It was a great honor to have been considered to be your pastor and to have received the call. As I looked through the Call documents and spoke with the Call committee at Trinity Lutheran, I could see the possibilities of ministry flourishing and glorifying God through a revitalization process. I truly believe that God will direct the right pastor to your church to lead you according to His will. I know that God is at work throughout this process and will lead you to the [right pastor]. I will continue to pray for you, your ministry, and your search for a pastor.

While I admit that we are disappointed, we told him that of course understand his decision and pray for God's blessing to him, and for his family and ministry at River of LIFE Lutheran. And yes, we do believe the Lord is with us as we continue in our search for a pastor to guide us as we revitalize our ministry at Trinity.

In His service -The Call Committee



Keep looking for more information on our Vacation Bible School.
July 28th through August 1st, 6:00 to 8:00 pm. We will need volunteers to help make this program a great success, sharing Jesus with the children.

Any question please call 320 360-7937 or text Nina Frank.

Please pray for a successful Spirit-led VBS.



Wee Disciples Preschool News:

Registration is going well for Wee Disciples Preschool. Praise God! We are completely full in the TTH class and have only 8 openings in our MWF Class. 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 more information about the preschool visit our website at www.trinity-urbana.org, or email weedisciplespreschool@yahoo.com.

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.

May is full of fun activities for our students at Wee Disciples. To begin the month, we will learn about the woods to prepare for our field trip to Anita Purves Nature Center and Busey Woods on May 9th. We will have our last Reading Buddy Time for the school year on May 7 and our last Chapel on May 14 and 15. May 16 is our last Comfort Dog visit with Sterling and Silver along with Harry and Hilary Rouse. For the last two weeks of preschool, we celebrate Fun Days with Pajama Day, Summer Birthday’s, Superhero Day, Bubble Day, and Backwards day. On May 22, we end the school year with a Moving Up and On Program starting at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary. May 23 is our last official day of preschool for the 2024-25 school year.

As we end the preschool year, I would like to take a moment to express my gratitude to everyone who has made this year a success. Wee Disciples Preschool is blessed by the support of Trinity Lutheran Church! We are blessed by Julie Elsts who is the best Teaching Assistant around! We are blessed by Carol Niemann who leads Chapel each month. We are blessed by the volunteers for our Reading Buddy Time: David, Carol, Ginger, Mark, Marianne, Carrie, Becky, and Nina. We are blessed by the members of our preschool committee: Carol, Ginger, Barb, Susan, Brent, Andrea, and Jennifer. We are blessed by the Rouses for visiting our classroom each month with Sterling and Silver. Finally, I cannot forget to thank Jacob for cleaning our classroom along with Dan and Randy for always being around to help. So many people contribute to the success of our preschool...
THANK YOU ALL!

God’s Blessings,
Karen Rohrer, Director, and Teacher



**Rummage Sale Set-up Starts Sunday, May 4
And continues through Wednesday, May 7.
Assistance is much appreciated!**

Donations are accepted through Wednesday, May 7. Early donations may be dropped off to the shelving in the northern storage closet or to Room 111. We're grateful for all donations, but please note we cannot accept electronics or child car seats.

Shop the Sale: Thurs. & Fri. (8-4); Sat. (8-noon)

**Proceeds from the sale go towards missions, community service organizations, and support for church workers.
Spread the news to your friends and neighbors to stop by our sale.**

**Thanks to all who help with this sale in any way.
Your support matters!**

Hi, this is Bess, the AV coordinator at our church, and I wanted to take a moment to share a little about what I've been working on and how my journey has been unfolding.

I'm currently a freshman at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, majoring in Applied Health Science. It's hard to believe that just a little over a year ago, I was a senior in high school, feeling anxious and uncertain about my future. I had so many questions about what was next and how I would navigate this new chapter of my life. Little did I know, God had some amazing plans in store for me. Over the past year, I've made so many wonderful friends who have been a huge source of encouragement, and I've found a really special community here.

One of the biggest blessings I've experienced so far is being involved with Cru, a campus ministry that has had a profound impact on my life. Cru's mission is to win, build, and send Christ-centered multiplying disciples, and its purpose has been so meaningful to me. Through my involvement, I've grown not only in my relationship with God but also in how to share Christ's love with others. It's been a journey of learning, growth, and deepening my faith.

This summer, I've been given a unique opportunity to participate in a mission trip with Cru in Ocean City, New Jersey, alongside nearly 100 other students. This trip will be a chance for me to develop spiritual leadership and ministry skills that will help me make a lasting, Christ-centered impact—on my campus, in my community, and beyond. Our team will engage in outreach activities, including on the beach, at local campuses, and within the community. I'll also be involved in small group Bible studies and discipleship, and my hope is that this experience will draw me closer to the Lord and help me learn how to share my faith with others in a way that glorifies God.

In order to make this trip a reality, I need to raise \$4,400 by May 21. This will cover my room, board, and transportation for the summer. I am reaching out to ask if you would prayerfully consider joining my team of ministry partners and supporting this opportunity. Your financial contribution, in whatever amount you feel led to give, would be a huge blessing and make a significant difference. The easiest way to give is online via my personal giving page: <https://give.cru.org/1303930>. If you prefer to give by check, please make it payable to Cru and feel free to send it to me directly.

Beyond financial support, I would deeply appreciate your prayers as well. This trip is such an important step in my spiritual growth, and having the backing of prayer is truly invaluable. If you wouldn't mind sharing this message with others as well, I would greatly appreciate it."

Thank you so much for considering joining my team of ministry partners this summer. I am excited about what God has in store and I look forward to hearing from you.

With gratitude and appreciation,
Bessera Stifanos



The



Page

- ★ To those who donated produce for the Grace food pantry during Lent.
- ★ To those who brought food items for the Easter breakfast.
- ★ And to those who helped set-up, serve and clean-up for the Easter breakfast.
- ★ To Brenda and the choir for the beautiful Easter music
- ★ To the members who read the scripture for us each Sunday—let us know if you want in—or can sub when needed.
- ★ To the members who serve on the Councils and Board of Elders, seeking God's guidance for Trinity.
- ★ To the board, the staff, and the volunteers at Wee Disciples Preschool—check out some details on their page!

April Giving Report

Submitted by Marianne Whitacre, Treasurer



	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>	<u>Other Designated</u>
4/6	5,876	500	269
4/13	5,069	350	107
4/20	3,294	100	68
4/27	3,635		44
Direct Deposit Gifts	750	290	0
Subtotals	18,624	1,240	488
General Fund Budget Need/Month	34,230		

	As of Mar. 25	Budget
Total Income	25,438.80	34,229.72
Total Expense	16,377.71	29,065.21
Mortgage	4,127.00	4,000
Net Income	4,934.09	624.51

Treasurer's Report: Our Net Income shows a surplus of around \$4934. Woo hoo! We still need to be aware that from Jan-March we showed a deficit in income over expenses. As was mentioned last month, the Parish Council continues to look into ways we can maintain control over this pattern.

A balance of \$475,375 was reported in the Building Fund. We continue to reduce this balance with generous donations specified monthly on our giving summaries. An additional payment of \$16,875 will be paid in May. Thank you!



05/04	Fred Holhubner Jr.	05/20	Tadele Kumssa
05/06	Phyllis Johnston	05/23	Juanita Steer
05/09	Denny Kane	05/24	Rick Rodriguez
	Faith Wetzell	05/27	Amen Tadesse
	Maeve Fonner	05/29	Sanait Stifanos

05/21	Carrie & Rick Kubetz (47years)
05/23	Bill & Ruth Benton (53 years)
05/26	Nick & Morgan Ryba



- ★ The Women's Monday Evening Book Group is on hiatus for the summer and will resume in September
- ★ The Property Team asks that anyone who is able please stick around after the Voters' Meeting on Sunday, May 4 and help put the Fellowship Hall tables and chairs away so that setup can commence for the Rummage Sale
- ★ The Breakfast Bible Study group invites you to join them on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 7 AM at the new Maple & Yolk (formerly Urbana Garden) restaurant on North Lincoln in Urbana (it's really good!)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7a Breakfast Bible Study 6:30p Girl Scouts	2	3 5:30p Worship Service
4 8:30a Traditional Service 9:45a SS & Bible Class 10:45a Contemporary Service 12:15p Voters' Meeting Rummage Sale Setup	5 Rummage Sale Setup	6 Rummage Sale Setup	7 Rummage Sale Setup 5p Pieces of Love 6:30p Choir	8 8a-4p Rummage Sale	9 8a-4p Rummage Sale 7p Friday Night Small Group	10 8a-Noon Rummage Sale 5:30p Worship Service
11 Mothers Day 8:30a Traditional Service 9:45a SS & Bible Class 10:45a Contemporary Service	12	13 6:30p Women in Mission	14 5p Pieces of Love 6:30p Choir	15 7a Breakfast Bible Study 6:30p Girl Scouts	16	17 5:30p Worship Service
18 8:30a Traditional Service 9:45a SS & Bible Class 10:45a Contemporary Service	19 6p Property Team	20 6p Parish Council	21 5p Pieces of Love 6:30p Choir	22 6p WD Graduation	23 Last day of Pre-school 7p Friday Night Small Group	24 5:30p Worship Service
25 8:30a Traditional Service 9:45a SS & Bible Class 10:45a Contemporary Service	26 Memorial Day	27 7:30p Ministry Council	28 5p Pieces of Love 6:30p Choir	29	30	31 5:30p Worship Service