



Trinity Today

Vol. 23, No. 7

July 1, 2021

Come Join Us for Trinity's Fall Kick-off on August 21/22!

It appears that the worst of the COVID pandemic is behind us, so we are planning for a good, old-fashioned celebration as we resume normal in-person activities on the weekend of August 21st and 22nd.

Here's the rundown:

- Our normal worship times of 5:00 pm on Saturday and 9:00 am on Sunday morning will continue. We'll carry on streaming our services for those that prefer that option
- In-person Sunday School and Adult Bible Studies will resume on Sunday morning at 10:15 am
- Your students will enjoy the "refreshed" Student Underground and Fellowship Hall environments for Sunday School and Youth Bible study
- Our Sanctuary Choir will be leading the congregational singing during our worship services, and
- Snacks and coffee will be available in our Gathering Space on Sunday morning, and warm cookies will again be available preceding Saturday's Satellite service!



Best of all, we'll have a BBQ lunch with all the fixin's ready to serve in the gym at 11:30 am on Sunday, August 22nd. Everyone's invited!

Mark your calendars now for August 21st and 22nd and be thinking of which friends you'll invite to come with you to Trinity's Fall Kick-off. It's time to come back to church! We can't wait to see you.

Youth and Children's Ministries!

June was such a great success! We had an awesome lock-in and service trip and Sorry game day! At the lock-in our students played lots of fun games together including 9 Square, kick ball, Sardines, laser tag capture the flag, a community building experience and worship! It was a blast but we definitely needed some sleep afterwards! Here are some pictures!





Then we had our mini high school mission trip! We had 3 of our high school boys participate and we partnered with Christ the King, Kingwood, who brought 12 students! We prayer-walked the bayou in groups and then served across the street at LEAH Downtown Academy cleaning out closets and doing one of their bulletin boards! The next day the kids served at Trinity helping me move furniture and organize supplies and afterwards we went and packed over 2,000 meals at the food bank! It was awesome! Our students were so efficient and hardworking that they outpaced the sorting machine! The last day we went to a mosque and Hindu temple so that our students could learn more about what other people believe and then our debrief was about how do you share Jesus with people of different walks of life! Here are some pictures from the weekend! (Continued on next page)





Our Life Size Sorry day went amazing! It was for our students who are 4th grade and younger! We played the famous game Sorry! in our gym and had lunch together! It was awesome! Here are some pictures from the afternoon!



July looks forward to VBS in a box and water games for our Children's Ministry, and open gym and finger rocket games for our youth! I will be attending the youth workers convention in preparation for the National Youth Gathering next summer as well as preparing for the Sunday School Kick-off in August! We are painting and redecorating as well as still looking for volunteers! I cannot wait to start this new journey soon! We are so excited for what comes next!

Haley Davison,
Director of Youth and Children's Ministries

Finance Corner - July 1, 2021

[Jesus said] "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you." Luke 6:37-38 ESV



Dear Supporter of Trinity's Ministry:

For the month of May, tithes and offerings were 13% (or roughly \$18,000) lower than our monthly budget. Total revenue for the year was 8% (or roughly \$58,000) lower than our budget, and 19% less than the same period in 2020.

Our operational expenses in May matched our monthly budget, while our year-to-date expenses were 2% less than what was budgeted. When compared with the same time period in 2020, expenses in 2021 were 5% higher than what was incurred last year when we were in the midst of the COVID shutdown

Our weekly attendance in May averaged 390, which is slightly better than May of 2020. During May, 46% of our worship service attendees participated in-person. We had an average of 112 attending (almost exclusively online) Adult Bible study or Sunday School each week.

In early June, Pastor Dorn announced a "Summer 2021 Catch-up Offering" to help eliminate our giving deficit. I'm thrilled to report that so far tithes and offerings have been \$15,000 above our budget for the period. Thank you SO MUCH to those who generously responded to this special giving appeal. If you haven't yet had a chance to participate, please pray and ask the Lord what He would have you do to help. You can give online by clicking [here](#) and selecting the "Summer 2021 Catch-up Offering" fund option, or mail a check marked "Summer 2021 Catch-up" to the office.

As summer vacation season is upon us, please remember that our ministries (and costs) continue unabated, so your faithful, ongoing giving is even more important. Your continued generosity during the summer can make a real difference in Trinity's impact and outreach to our community, as God works His work among us.

Joyfully joining Jesus alongside you,
Ron Lacy, CFO

The Amazon Smile logo features the word "amazon" in black and "smile" in orange, with a curved arrow underneath "amazon" pointing to the right.

You shop. Amazon gives.

How to increase your giving to Trinity without spending any additional money.

Please remember that you can expand your stewardship by using a program that Trinity has qualified for at Amazon. Amazon will give Trinity a 0.5% rebate for all purchases made by our supporters when making their normal purchases at Amazon. It's very easy—whenever you are shopping on Amazon, go to this web address (instead of www.amazon.com): <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-1238451>

Using this service from Amazon won't change the cost of the products you buy, and all of your account settings and preferences will be retained. The only thing that will change is that Trinity will receive a rebate!

Reopening Anxieties

With approximately 50% of Americans fully vaccinated in the United States, the COVID pandemic appears to be waning in the United States. The pandemic is not yet over, but it seems the nation is transitioning to a more “normal” life. Airplanes are full and restaurants can’t find enough workers.

But for many, reopening comes with its own set of anxieties. According to one poll, around half of Americans say they feel uneasy about readjusting to the “new normal”. ([Click here for more details.](#))

Anxiety is often driven by uncertainty. No one knows if the emerging COVID variants will cause another surge. No one really knows how long immunity lasts, or if there are any negative long term effects from the vaccine. No one who is alive today has ever gone through a global pandemic, so even the best and brightest among us is forced to make it up as they go. It's not a surprise that many folks are emerging from the pandemic feeling exhausted, burned out, anxious, or depressed.

Thankfully, our congregation has Stephen Ministers who are trained to provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care to individuals facing difficult times in life—grief, cancer, divorce, financial difficulties, hospitalization, chronic illness, job loss, disability, loneliness, a spiritual crisis, or other life struggles. They have a compassionate heart for those who are hurting, and they're equipped with caring ministry skills by their congregation's Stephen Leaders. They listen, care, pray, encourage, and offer emotional and spiritual support. They often work in cooperation with licensed counselors, psychiatrists and other professional caregivers to help those suffering from depression.

Do you have an issue that you need to bring to the feet of our Lord in prayer? You don't have to go it alone! If you'd like to learn more about how our Stephen Ministry could provide a listening ear and caring heart for yourself, a loved one, friend, neighbor or co-worker (inside or outside our congregation) please speak with one of our pastors or reach out to Ron Lacy at rlacy@trinitydt.org or 713.229.2970.



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**



LEAH Schools Downtown Academy Opens

LEAH Schools Downtown Academy opened its doors to many happy children on June 1st. We welcome them and look forward to being in ministry with them.



On Saturday, June 12th, the Downtown Academy hosted an "On the Move Touch-A-Truck Experience!" Children had lots of fun exploring vehicles designed to move people and packages.



Youth and Adult Virtual Bible Studies

Please consider joining one or more of our weekly virtual Bible studies. It's a wonderful way to begin a new spiritual discipline. Virtual login information is available on Trinity's website www.trinitydt.org.

SUNDAYS - YOUTH

Foundations 56 (5th-6th grades) - 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Led by Jane Suchma & Karen Maynard

Online Kids Interactive Experience. (Note: To join this class go to <https://www.trinitydt.org/youth-ministries/>.)

High School Class (7th-12th grades)

Led by Elizabeth Oliver - 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Study of the book of Psalms.

SUNDAYS - ADULT

Acts

Led by Pastor Paul Dorn - 7:00-8:00 p.m.

As we study the book of Acts, we will read how the Word of the Lord Jesus Christ grew and how those who believed the Word increased mightily. It is in that Word that Christ will comfort us and strengthen our faith in Him and encouraging us to be His witnesses in Houston, Texas, and to the end of the earth.

First World Problems - Modern Dilemmas

Led by Thomas DeVries - 10:30-11:30 a.m.

As Christians we find ourselves living in the wealthiest setting in history. We face challenges and questions that aren't readily answerable in the Bible or by the examples of the ancient Church. In most cases, our dilemmas are not even relatable to many of our fellow Christians in other parts of the world. We will work through them honestly, openly and with an eye towards discerning God's will as we seek to answer these questions. We will explore topics that are applicable directly to how we live our lives and that we find ourselves debating about over dinner or in conversations with others. This is where the rubber meets the road on living our Christian faith.

James: Life on the Ground

Led by Jim Cleary - 10:30-11:30 a.m.

We all can use very practical help living out our faith. Join us as we sit at the feet of James, soaking up what he has to say about how life really works and even more importantly, how it should work. Discussion-oriented.

Parables and Proverbs

Led by Bill Fischer's Team - 10:30-11:30 a.m.

"Parables and Proverbs" - examples of Jesus using the wisdom of Proverbs to emphasize the points of His Parables.



WEDNESDAYS - ADULTS

Bless These Lips (Women's Study)

Led by Jan Case - 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Make over your words to influence the world! *Bless These Lips: 40 Days of Spiritual Renewal* examines things we say that get in the way of our relationships with God and with others. Each chapter draws on lip product analogies and uses humor, anecdotes, and observations to introduce Scripture passages that address common behaviors and attitudes.

What Does It Mean to Be Chosen (Women's Study)

Led by Mary Oliver - 6:30 p.m.

A new study based on the television series, "The Chosen." Participants are encouraged to watch an episode online before each lesson. The link to the Zoom meeting is <https://zoom.us/j/428635050?pwd=TXY5TXY5M240UmtmWkZWR05NV241UT09>

Virtual Midweek Spiritual Check-in

Led by Jim Cleary - 7:00-8:00 p.m.

THURSDAYS - ADULTS

Sonrise Bible Study

Led by Pastor Donald Black - 7:30-8:30 a.m.

The class discusses the Scripture readings assigned for the following Sunday. The class is open to men and women. For more information, contact Bill Fischer at 713.827.8664 or bfisch@aol.com.



Explore God's Word With Us!

Life Thoughts in the Church Year - July 4 – Pentecost VI

Many in the world and some in the churches won't listen to the sanctity of human life. It doesn't mean we've failed. Both Ezekiel (Ezekiel 2:5) and Jesus (Mark 6:3) experienced rejection. So, we may borrow their boldness. The Lord perfects His power (2 Corinthians 12:9) even in surprise pregnancy or terminal diagnosis. His creating, redeeming, and calling grace prevails in our weakness as well. And all ages, appearances, and abilities will know He Himself has been among them.

From the Summer 2021 issue of *LifeDate*, a quarterly journal of news and commentary from Lutherans For Life - www.lutheransforlife.org.



2021 GOVERNING BOARD

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Minutes of the Governing Board are available to our members at the Welcome Center.

Greetings from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis!

Stephanie and I are now officially done with our Cambridge studies! I can confirm as of the writing of this letter that we have passed all our classes. We still await the detailed feedback on our essays and exams, but we have official confirmation and I think this makes us alumni of Cambridge University. I was told the other day by one of my professors at CSL that Westfield House is affiliated with one of the colleges at Cambridge – Fitzwilliam. I have been informed by Westfield House staff that this is a 'historic' connection no longer in effect, but the important thing to note about this is that we supposedly could have bought scarfs with a specific college crest on it. Too late, apparently. Oh, well...I'm just happy to be done with this program and moving on to my concluding year of the MDiv at CSL.



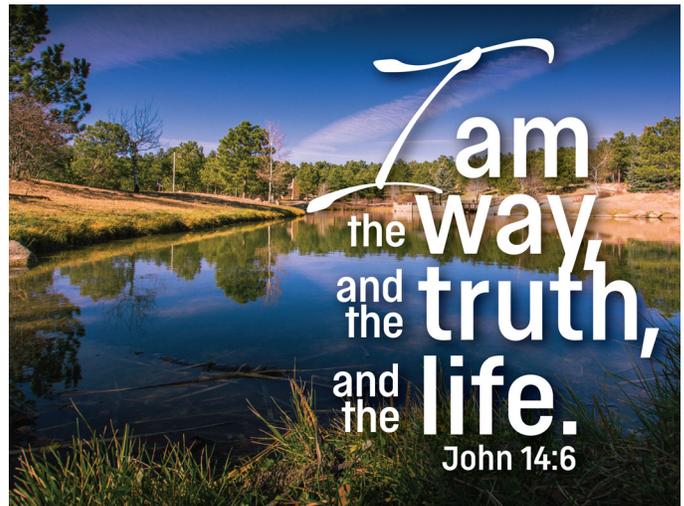
**Chuck Ridley,
Seminary Student**

I've begun working on campus again, taking up my old job along with some new responsibilities as staffing changes have been implemented over the course of the pandemic. I am glad to see campus getting back to normal as small changes are implemented to reinstate previous aspects of campus life. Things like regular access to the fieldhouse, after-chapel coffee, and coffee in the library (library services was particularly happy about this one) are signs of a return to the way things were before COVID. Yet, there are changes in personnel as there tend to be over the course of time. The joke is that Lutherans don't like change. But it's a reality of life that change always finds us, even if we don't go looking for it. I've seen on Facebook most of my classmates being ordained and installed over the last few weeks and I've been meeting incoming students and guys who are going into their second year of seminary. Every year the campus changes and jumping back into the community is not something that happens immediately. There is an ongoing process of community formation as individuals come together to know each other and be known by others. We (as humans) often think of community as 'ours', as though it belongs to us. In some sense, this is true, but just as much we also belong to the community, being carried along with it and its history, tradition, and defining narrative. This process can be frustrating to us Americans who are indoctrinated into a culture of instant gratification which is centered on the 'autonomous self' and prizes control over one's life and circumstances. As our individual stories converge and intertwine, we lose control over some aspects of our lives, often resorting to aggressive means in attempt to regain a sense of control.

So, as I see things change on campus, I might feel impulses to take control by isolating myself from other students because "they're not my classmates" or I might try to make myself stand out by showing off what I know as "someone who has been around longer". I might try to push those in charge to make campus just like how I remember it, not accepting realities of a changing environment and cutting myself off from the ongoing story of Concordia Seminary. As I write this, we just commemorated the nativity of St. John the Baptist yesterday. As we consider not just the birth of John, but his life, we see that he experienced a massive change as the Christ whose way he had prepared showed up. John's disciples apparently did not handle this change as well as John himself did. The story of the importance of John was transitioning to focus on Jesus and John's disciples did not understand this. They saw this as a threat, but their teacher corrected them and continued to point to Jesus, the center and fulfillment of God's story of everything (see John 3:22-36). John knew that however important his role was, it was subordinate to the role of Christ, the Son of God, who would die for the sins of the whole world and rise again for our justification.

As we experience turmoil in our nation, often expressed as a battle for control which uses words as its primary weapons, we (as Christians) are to remember that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and

today and forever" (Heb. 13:8) and that He is "the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). The true Word who became flesh lived and died humbly, submitting Himself to the will of the Father so that you and I would be reconciled to Him and brought into His story. As citizens of the world, we continue to bear witness to the Creator's design and intent for the order of His creation. As the Church and following the example of John the Baptist, we bear witness to the truth of Christ and His lordship over all things. May you receive the peace of Christ in the midst of the changes and chances of this life until Jesus returns to bring perfect peace in the new creation.



By all Your saints in warfare,
 For all Your saints at rest,
 Your holy name, O Jesus,
 Forevermore be blest!
 For You have won the battle
 That they might wear the crown;
 And now they shine in glory
 Reflected from Your throne.

We praise You for the Baptist,
 Forerunner of the Word,
 Our true Elijah making
 A highway for the Lord.
 The last and greatest prophet,
 He saw the dawning ray
 Of light that grows in splendor
 Until the perfect day.

Then let us praise the Father
 And worship God the Son
 And sing to God the Spirit,
 Eternal Three in One,
 Till all the ransomed number
 Fall down before the throne,
 Ascribing pow'r and glory
 And praise to God alone.

("By All Your Saints in Warfare", LSB 518:1, 18, 3)
 Text: Public Domain

In Christ,
 Chuck Ridley

Save the Date

The Trinity Concert Series

presents

Chelsea Chen
 in concert Sunday, September 26 at 2:30 pm

BOARD OF ELDERS - CONTACT INFORMATION

Jim Baccus	jimbaccus@comcast.net	713.956.1899
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Tim Grady	timlgrady@aol.com	281.639.0036
Dan Krueger	dwkrueger5@yahoo.com	901.258.4029

Drive-Up Holy Communion



Wednesdays
11:00 am - 1 pm

Saturdays
9:30 am - 11:00 am

Call the Church Office
at 713-224-0684
8:30 am - 2:15 pm
Monday - Friday
to RSVP

Drive-up Holy Communion will not be offered on July 3, 7 & 10. It will resume on July 14.

Prayer Chain



For urgent prayer requests, please call:
Lil Hohle - 346.207.7442 or Alice Scherer - 713.984.0803



God Bless the USA!

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*Joyfully Sharing Christ's Saving
Love With All People Now!*

Trinity Downtown

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Article submission deadline is **July 14** for articles to be published August 1, 2021.

Submit articles to pschroeder@trinitydt.org.

Contact Pam Schroeder at 713.229.2944 with any questions about this publication.