



Trinity Today

Vol. 25, No. 6

June 1, 2023

Youth Had a Blast Assembling Hygiene Kits for Orphan Grain Train

Hey, all! Thank you so much for all your donations. The youth made 50 plus hygiene kits for Orphan Grain Train and are still working on T-shirt diapers! The kids truly had a blast and we had some great laughs along



the way! Your donations made all the difference and our hope is to deliver the kits and diapers to OGT by mid-July! Check out the pictures of our time together!

Growing Anxiety Level – What Can You Do?

Mental health professionals, including the U.S. Surgeon General, are sounding the warning about the growing level of anxiety in our culture. Study after study and poll after poll reveal that elementary age children, teenagers and adults are experiencing higher levels of anxiety at a level that is sufficient to impact their mental health and the performance of their daily tasks. While it is difficult to pinpoint an exact cause, several factors have been proposed as contributors to this trend.

The impact of **pervasive use of social media** and digital technology by our society is a potentially obvious cause for at least part of the problem. Constant connectivity and exposure to online platforms can create feelings of pressure, social comparison, and cyberbullying, which could all conceivably contribute to an increased anxiety level.

Students of any age may also be impacted by **increased academic pressures**, high parental or social group expectations, and pressure to “get into the right college”. The competitive nature of these aspects can lead to increased anxiety levels.

Moreover, societal factors such as **economic uncertainties**, political unrest, and the increased polarization of our society have likely had an impact on the mental health for people of *all* ages, even students.

It's important to note that anxiety in children can manifest in different ways compared to adults. Younger children may not always have the vocabulary or awareness to articulate their anxiety directly. Instead, they may exhibit physical symptoms, changes in behavior, or difficulties with sleep or concentration.

It's also important to understand that while anxiety rates may have increased, awareness and recognition of mental health issues have also improved. This means that more individuals may be seeking help and receiving diagnoses, leading to a higher reported prevalence of anxiety.

Our church community can and does play a vital role in supporting students who are experiencing anxiety. We can:

1. Pray, asking our Lord to open our eyes to the suffering of those around us, and how we might be “Jesus with skin on” in their life;
2. Foster a welcoming and inclusive environment. Create a safe space where everyone feels accepted and supported. Encourage an atmosphere of kindness, understanding, and non-judgment.



3. Talk about the issue. Raising awareness can help reduce stigma and increase understanding within our community.
4. Remind ourselves that God's love for all of us is unchanging and unchangeable.

If you or a loved one are feeling the impact of our unsettled times, Trinity Downtown has a ministry that might be right for you.

Stephen Ministers are commissioned members of our congregation who have received specialized training to equip them to provide Christ-focused, highly confidential care and prayer support to people experiencing a crisis, facing a challenge or simply going through a tough time. While Stephen Ministers are NOT trained to assist those (of any age) suffering from serious mental health challenges, they CAN provide a listening ear to parents and care givers of children who are facing the anxiety of a child who is facing difficulties.

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.

The Houston Lutheran Chorale Presents "One Nation Under God" On Independence Day

The Houston Lutheran Chorale, under the direction of Steve Bayless, will present its Independence Day concert at Trinity on July 4th at 4:00 p.m. The Chorale invites everyone to join them in celebrating our freedom at this free concert (free will donation appreciated). Bring your own picnic to enjoy after the concert and watch the City of Houston fireworks display from Trinity's parking lot.

The following are some thoughts from Steve Bayless which were published in the Spring edition of the *HLC Newsletter*:

"The God who gave us life gave us liberty at the same time..."

- These words, written by Thomas Jefferson almost 250 years ago before the writing of the Declaration of Independence, still ring true for us today. So many people forget that all things are of God and all things come from God. God gave us all life and gave us all liberty, at the same time. The freedoms that we enjoy, those that have been hard-won by those that have come before us, cannot be taken for granted. Our nation's quest for independence was born of our desire to self-govern and the freedom to make the choices and mistakes that we felt were right for ourselves, regardless of what the king says. We sought the freedom to worship the God of our choosing, the one true God, and not have to worship as a part of the Church of England, thereby the king.

In this season, when we celebrate the birth of our nation, we celebrate those freedoms. We celebrate our freedom to speak out against the government without fear of retribution, we celebrate the right to worship the one true God and thank Him for those freedoms that He gave us when He gave us life.

Forever we will be grateful, first to God for the gifts of grace and life and then to those who have fought for our rights to live a life of freedom, in this great country.



Blood Donor Sunday - June 4

Our next Blood Donor Sunday will be held June 4, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the gym. If you would prefer a special time, please sign up online at www.commitforlife.org. While scheduling an appointment ahead of time gives us an estimate of how many donors to expect and the Blood Center sends out the appropriate number of workers; an added bonus is we take scheduled appointments prior to walk-ups.

We look forward to a very successful drive. Double red cell and combination whole blood and plasma machines will be available for those wishing to donate that way. Both count for two donations.

Save time with the DIGITAL DONOR APP. The App makes it easy to find a blood drive, schedule your donation and answer the CFL Express Pass health history interview before you arrive.

REMINDER!! The minimum donor age requirement to give blood is 16 years old with a parent's permission. Weight must be 122 lbs. (still 110 lbs. for 17 and older) and in general good health.

REMEMBER: one unit of blood can save as many as three lives as it is broken down into three components – red blood cells, platelets and plasma.



Trinity Ladies Circle Ministries Meeting

Our next Ladies Circle gathering will be Thursday, June 1 beginning at 10 a.m. This gathering will include a 'cold dish' potluck luncheon. Our speaker for the day will be Mary Oliver, who will be leading us in a Bible study on the topic of "Finding Jesus in the Old Testament". We will meet in the Gathering Space just outside of rooms 124/125. Bring a friend, bring a Bible, bring a salad, cold/room temp appetizer or dessert and let's get ready to explore some biblical treasure together! We look forward to seeing you all!!

For additional information, please contact Trinity Garrett, president, at (c) 281.300.5660 or tgarett@trinitydt.org.



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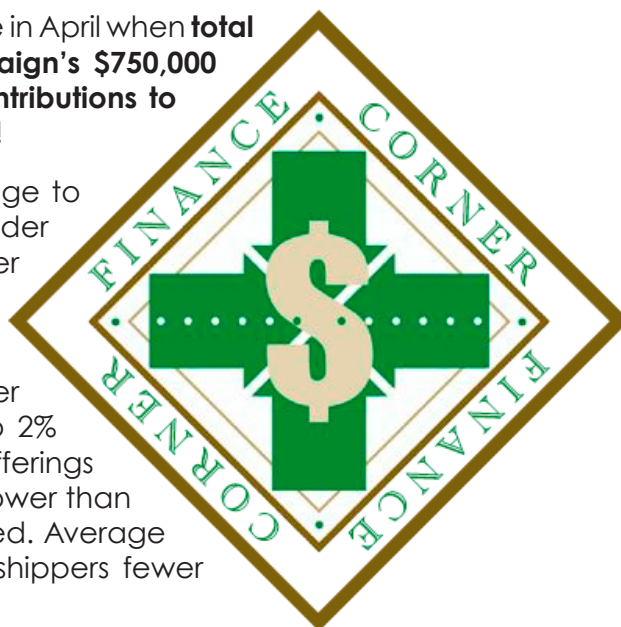
Finance Corner - June 2023

[Jesus said] Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Matthew 24:45-46 ESV

Our Magnify Campaign reached a meaningful milestone in April when **total pledges** reached \$754,000, and **exceeded the Campaign's \$750,000 goal!** Due to the generosity of God's people, **total contributions to the Magnify Campaign through April 30th were \$582,000!**

If you haven't yet had an opportunity to make a pledge to the Magnify Capital Campaign, please prayerfully consider doing so. You may find a commitment card as you enter the Sanctuary, or you may record your Magnify pledge online [here](#).

Tithes and offerings for the month of April were 10% lower than our monthly budget, but our expenses were also 2% lower than budgeted. So far in 2023, our tithes and offerings are 9% under budget, with YTD total revenues \$29,000 lower than planned. YTD expenses remained 1% lower than planned. Average worship attendance in April was 542, which is 23 worshippers fewer than the same period in 2022.



Here's a quick summary of "visible results" for April:

April 2023 Summary		
	In-person	Online
Average Worship Attendance	356	186
	Adults	Students
Avg. Discipleship Hour Attendance	138	53
Contributions	Actual	Budgeted
April 2023 tithes and offerings	\$139,180	\$155,000
Year-to-date 2023 tithes and offerings	\$510,682	\$560,000
	Received	Pledged
Magnify Campaign gifts thru 04/30/2023	\$582,000	\$754,000

We are entering the summer months with (what equates to) a two-week deficit in our total revenue for the year. Of course, our ministries (and costs) continue unabated in the summer, so your faithful, ongoing giving is even more important. Your continued generosity in helping us "make up" for our deficit before summer gets in full swing can make a real difference in Trinity's impact and outreach to our community, as God continues His work among us.

Honored to serve you,

Ron Lacy
CFO

Youth and Kids Update

May was filled with lots of fun at Youth Laser Tag and most recently a Kids Water Day! It was an absolute blast at both events! An added bonus was our Holy Smokers team were cooking the same Saturday as Kids Water Games so parents got to enjoy a ministry that's usually challenging for them to participate in! God is truly on the move here at Trinity Downtown!



June looks forward to two mission trips - the middle school and high school trips to downtown Houston and Colorado Springs, Colorado respectively. I am so excited to be taking 11 kids on each mission trip! It's truly a blessing! I am so excited for all of the ways God will be working on these two trips! Please keep all of my chaperones in your prayers, that we would have super natural strength and stay well! Thank you for joining with me in our efforts to love kids and students while we serve the Lord!

Haley Davisson, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries

Orphan Grain Train Update

With joyful and grateful hearts! It was encouraging to see so many Pastors (including Pastor Dorn) and volunteers weather the rain May 7th as we gathered to celebrate the groundbreaking. Neither drizzle nor mud could dampen the event as we took the next step toward building the Servant Center. Completed architectural plans are currently in the hands of the building contractor as we wait for some final permitting.



Major Update - OGT has, with the help of many gracious individuals and churches, reached the challenge grant goal of \$781,000 needed to qualify and receive the \$455,000 offered by the Mabree Foundation. What a huge blessing from God as He worked through each of you to provide for this ministry. Rev. Ralph Schmidt from OGT headquarters was instrumental in securing funds for the build. Mr. Dick Rathgeber, a major donor and OGT Houston Board member, also served to bring in other large pledges and donations. To God be the glory!

Next Sorting & Packing Day - June 17th from 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Location: 5050 E. Sam Houston Parkway S. 77581. Hope to see you there!

Domestic Shipment - A trailer load carrying 300 boxes of clothing and blankets was recently delivered, and joyfully received, by Pastor Weber and church members of Immanuel Lutheran Mission in Mercedes, TX. A domestic shipment will be delivered to another mission in the Valley during June.

In His service, Mike Rathje - OGT Branch Manager 281.723.4989

Magnify Campaign Update

- Thank you to all who have supported this renovation, through your gifts, prayers, and encouragement. While we continue the fulfillment phase of the campaign, we also begin to focus on how we can use our renovated space to bring others into our Trinity community through both worship services and other community outreach events, including performances and concerts.
- Pledges through April 30, 2023 totaled \$754,000, exceeding our pledge goal. Praise the Lord for the generosity of this community. We are also pleased to report we have received gifts totaling \$582,000 which puts us at 78% of our goal. We are grateful to the Lord and our Trinity family for your generosity and response to this request.
- We celebrated achieving these milestones on May 7th with donuts and coffee after the 9:00 a.m. service. It was a great time of fellowship for the congregation.
- The Magnify campaign will continue through the end of 2023, while most of the costs associated with the Sanctuary refresh have already been incurred. We have been able to fund these up-front payments by "borrowing from ourselves" using Trinity's cash reserves.



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Magnify Prayer Request/Prayer Warriors

We fall on our knees in gratitude for Your grace in providing us a refreshed Sanctuary in which we can magnify Your name, and for the generosity of Your people in providing the necessary funds. Please continue to guide us so we might use this new space to bring others to join us in worshipping You, Lord.



Prayers Warriors for our Capital Campaign are needed to pray for God's guidance in Triniy's stewardship in completing the refreshing/updating of our Sanctuary. You may pray with other prayer warriors in person on Sundays in the Gathering Space or by Zoom on Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. Please call Rick or Betty Berg at 281.455.5413 or 281.455.5426 for more information.

Membership Report

The following are the changes to membership approved at the May 2023 Governing Board meeting.

MEMBERSHIP IN

Transfer

- Ann and Gerral Fehler from St. Mark LCMS - Houston, TX (04/19/2023)

Baptisms

- Julia McGregor Ransom (04/01/2023)
- Judith Amelia Waldie (04/19/2023)

MEMBERSHIP OUT

Transfer

- Emily and Thomas Moore to St. Mark LCMS - Conroe, TX (03/15/2023)

To Glory

- Jennifer Briana Ortiz (03/01/2023)
- Olive Eastwood (03/08/2023)



2023 GOVERNING BOARD

Jim Baccus (Elder)
Lori Dixon
Pastor Michael Dorn
Mike Gilmore (Elder)
Tim Grady (Chair/Elder)
Ross Krueger
Cassandra McGarvey
(Vice chair)
Marie Munier
Mary Oliver
Cynthia Roney
Chris Sonneborn (Elder/Sec.)
Mike Sterling (Elder)

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

Children, Youth and Adult Bible Studies

Please consider joining one or more of our 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. Children and youth classes are in person unless indicated otherwise. Adult classes are either virtual, in person or hybrid.

SUNDAYS - CHILDREN (10:15 - 11:15 AM)

Nursery (Infants - age 2) - Room 234

Kingdom Quest 2 & 3 year olds - Room 233

Kingdom Quest 4 & 5 year olds - Room 232

Kingdom Quest 1st Grade - 4th Grade - Kingdom Hall (basement)

Casa 'de Oracion Spanish (all grades) - Room 209

SUNDAYS - YOUTH

Foundations 56 (5th-6th grades) - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 207

High School (7th-12th grades) - 10:15-11:15 AM - Underground

SUNDAYS - ADULT

Encountering Jesus

Led by Jim Cleary - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 205 - Hybrid

Feeling a bit overwhelmed or stressed out? In this class, we'll look at some encounters between Jesus and people meeting Him for the first time. Believe or not, all of these folks are either stressed out or desperate. Find out how these encounters turn out and be comforted by how Jesus responds to these folks. Discussion-oriented.

Joining Jesus on His Mission

Led by Pastor Jose Flores of Casa 'de Oracion - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 211 - In Person (Spanish Speaking)

Participants are encouraged to join this study using the book and videos for *Joining Jesus on His Mission*. Written and produced by Trinity's deployed missionary, Pastor Greg Finke, *Joining Jesus on His Mission* is a simple, powerful, and practical book that will move you and your tribe from merely thinking about being everyday missionaries to launching. You will feel both relief and hope as you gain insights into how to recognize where Jesus is already at work in your everyday world and join Him.

Liturgical Arts

Led by Thomas DeVries and Anthony Flaviani - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 206 - In Person

Ever notice that many churches are designed as a cross? Ever wonder where the liturgy came from? The Christian church over many centuries has built a beautiful mosaic of traditions and meanings behind what makes a church unique from anything else in the secular world. We'll go through the history, the why, and the meaning behind what we experience every Sunday.

Pastor's Study - Scripture De Jour (Begins June 11)

Led by the Pastors - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 123 - In Person

Pastor Dorn and Pastor Lonnie will be hosting a Bible Study each week through the summer months with a Bible Scripture of the Week selected by the teaching Pastor. We hope to stimulate conversation and discuss developing meaningful relationships guided by the Scriptures and the Spirit.

The Bible Alive ... God In Action

Led by John Reisig - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 124 - In Person

In this study, each Sunday offers a single stand alone topic. The material covered each week will provide a meaningful experience for regular participants, visitors to Trinity Downtown, and for those simply looking to get back into a routine of attending Bible study. The single topic format insures that no one will be lost



or feel behind during the study, and will feel welcome and encouraged to attend at any time. Bibles will be provided and utilized each week. Providing historical context to the scriptural message, and modern application of His word, the Bible will "Come Alive," and show that God has been working throughout history, and is still working today out of love for His people.

The Gospel According to John

Led by Pastor Paul Dorn - 7:00-8:00 PM - Virtual

The Apostle John wrote his Gospel "so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name." In our day when the good news of Jesus is a stumbling block or just plain foolishness for many people, the Gospel according to John will serve well to deepen and strengthen our faith in Jesus as the Christ. The class will meet each Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Please email Pastor Paul Dorn at pbdorn6@gmail.com if you wish to be part of this study and he will send you a link for the Zoom meeting.

United in Christ - A Study of Ephesians

Led by Bill Fischer - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 201 - Hybrid

In Ephesians Paul reminds us that "by grace you have been saved through faith" and then how "we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has prepared beforehand."

TUESDAYS - ADULTS

Joining Jesus on His Mission - Virtual Bible Study for Young Adults

Led by Maddie Meier - 7:15 PM on every other Tuesday - Virtual

Young adults are encouraged to join this virtual study using the book and videos for *Joining Jesus on His Mission*. Written and produced by Trinity's deployed missionary, Pastor Greg Finke, *Joining Jesus on His Mission* is a simple, powerful, and practical book that will move you and your tribe from merely thinking about being everyday missionaries to launching. You will feel both relief and hope as you gain insights into how to recognize where Jesus is already at work in your everyday world and join Him. Books are available in the church office.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/92015984452?pwd=ZUh4dnNTT3lzdVNQNTVmQWcwNDBKdz09>
Meeting ID: 920 1598 4452, Passcode: zGND4G

WEDNESDAYS - ADULTS

The Sermon on the Mount

Led by Mary Oliver - 6:30-7:45 PM - Virtual (In person the last Wednesday of the month)

Wednesday Women's Bible Study will spend the late spring and summer looking carefully at the *Sermon on the Mount* and Jesus' familiar words from Matthew 5-7 about what it means to be part of His kingdom. Join us to explore Old Testament references to help us gain a deeper understanding into the context of His words.

We will continue to meet on zoom each Wednesday evening and will get together in person on the last Wednesday of each month for fellowship. All women are welcome!

Virtual Midweek Spiritual Check-in

Led by Jim Cleary - 7:00-8:00 PM - Virtual

THURSDAYS - ADULTS

Sonrise Bible Study

Led by individual class members - 7:30-8:30 AM - Virtual

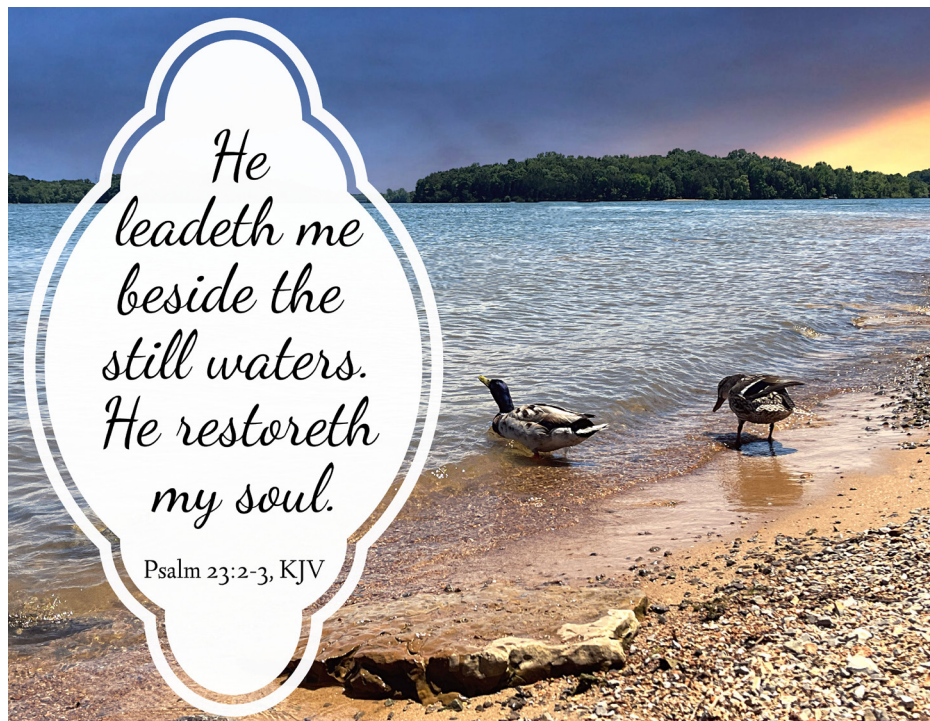
This member-led virtual class primarily discusses the Scripture readings assigned for the following Sunday. The class is open to men and women. We plan to follow this member-led format while Pastor Black is recovering from his recent illness. For more information contact Bill Fischer at 832.459.3241 or the church office.

Life Thoughts in the Church Year — June 4 – Festival of the Holy Trinity

The care that Father, Son, and Spirit enact by creating humankind in His image makes every member of our race precious (Genesis 11:26-27). He reserves for Himself alone the right to decide how they live and when they die. Ultimate authority belongs to Jesus alone (Acts 2:36). We get the privilege and responsibility of teaching everyone that they also may believe it (Matthew 28:20)!



From Lutherans For Life - www.lutheransforlife.org



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

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Article submission deadline is **June 19** for articles to be published July 1, 2023.

Submit articles to pschroeder@trinitydt.org.

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