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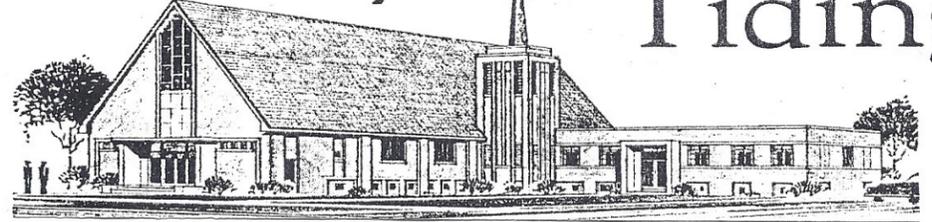
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Trinity Tidings



Food insecurity is defined as the disruption of food intake or eating patterns because of lack of money and other resources.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This month we are kicking off a Get One/Give One campaign. (See related article here in this newsletter.) Food insecurity is a real and constant challenge in our world today. I am not talking about the phrase “there are starving kids in China” that a lot of us grew up with. No, there are many families, elderly couples and individuals in our Cooperstown community as well as in the state that go to bed hungry. Not knowing when or where your next meal is coming from is a scary place to be.

I can remember as a child taking a trip to the grocery store with my mom to pick up some “things”. We filled three or four brown paper bags and headed to my grandparents’ house. We left the bags on the back stoop for them to find when they came home. Mom later explained that they had medications that were expensive and that sometimes they did not have any money for groceries, and if you tried to give them money they would not accept it. It was hard to understand because I knew my grandpa faithfully served at the local food kitchen and worked hard to provide, yet would not accept charity. This was really my first encounter with what is now termed food insecurity.

When we were attending Luther Seminary, we found ourselves having more month left over than the check would stretch to. I found myself having to go to a local food shelf. This was a humbling experience because for the first time in my life I had to admit I could not provide for my family. I was asking for help because we needed to eat. The paperwork to qualify and restrictions put on are all needed, but for someone who just wants to feed their kids this can be overwhelming. In fact I left the first time because I was baffled by the requirements and “I just wanted to feed my family”.

It is estimated that in America there are over 35 million people, a third of which are children, that suffer from food insecurity. In this pastor's opinion, that is way too many. How can you help? Donate to local food banks (food and cash are appreciated), participate in Get One/Give One, or volunteer at the local food bank.

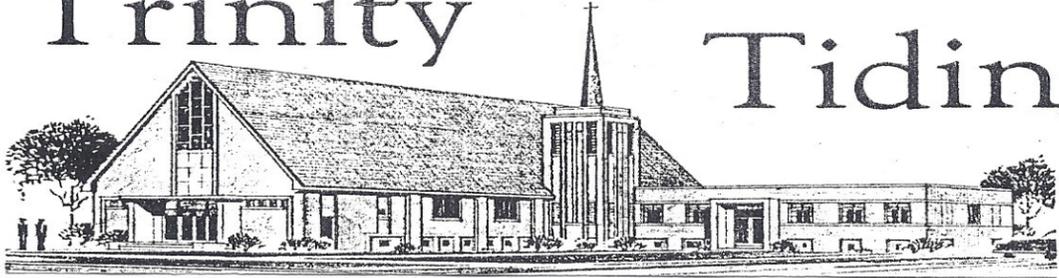
If you find that you are struggling to make ends meet and are facing tough choices, please know that you are not alone. Cooperstown has a food shelf and a social services office that can be accessed—there is Hope. Know that Trinity is here to help as we can. I am willing to walk with you through whatever it may be—I’ve been there.

(Continued)

Trinity Lutheran News

**Trinity Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting
January 31, 2021
Following worship**

Trinity Tidings



(Continued)

I ask you this month to be praying for all who struggle with food insecurity. Pray for the working poor who, even though they are working, still struggle with this. Pray for the elderly on fixed incomes. Pray for our community, state and nation that we may be able to truly work on combating this growing epidemic.

Thank you in advance for your prayers and generosity, your time and talents and for you being you. You are appreciated and loved, named and claimed, marked and sealed, forever by God the Father. Love God, Love People!

Blessings,

Pastor Rick

WE ARE THANKFUL TO HAVE RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING MEMORIALS:

In Memory of In Memory of Ken Anton

Ray & Barb Walker

In Memory of Brenda Starke

Ray & Barb Walker

In Memory of Duane Loudon

Ray & Barb Walker

In Memory of Dennis Gunderson

Ray & Barb Walker

In Memory of Pete Overby

Ray & Barb Walker

All memorials received are deposited to the Trinity Lutheran Church Memorial Fund. These funds are used to pay for special projects as designated by the donor. Designations currently established are: Banners, Altar Guild, Pew Cushions, Music, Quilters, Rock Garden, SAMs Program, Sunday School, Youth and Undesignated. Please indicate if you would like your memorial designated to one of these or another of your choice. Your giving in honor or memory of loved ones is greatly appreciated.



*NOTE: Trinity gave Cooper Bucks to each of the GCC employees for Christmas.

*Dear Trinity members,
Thank you for the generous
Christmas gift. It was very
thoughtful of you to think of us
and is very much
appreciated.
The GCC Staff*

- The committee is open to all ideas.

11. New Business

- Annual Meeting – options for the meeting were discussed including in-person, virtual and postponing the meeting. As our constitution does not allow for a virtual meeting the council would need to approve a continuing resolution to do so. Kelly suggested tabling the decision until the January council meeting.

- The goal to return to in-person worship is December 20 with great hope to have Christmas Eve worship. Two or three services would be held on December 24 limited to 75 people at each to allow for proper social distancing. Reservations would be required for attendance and mask wearing would be encouraged. This information will be included in the Christmas letter and the December newsletter.

- Trinity Growers funds will be distributed soon.

- Community outreach – Pastor Rick proposed to the council that Trinity give back to the community in this Christmas season. After discussion:

- Giving Tree – Dane made a motion to give \$250, second by Bob. Motion carried.

- Cornerstone Haiti Mission Trip – Paige made a motion to give \$250, second by Larry. Motion carried.

- GCC School employees – Karen made a motion to give \$35 Cooper Bucks to each of 53 individuals for a total of \$1,855, second by Scott L. Motion carried with one opposed.

- Pastoral coverage is needed for Pastor Rick's vacation time, December 25 – January 2. The church office will be closed the week after Christmas.

12. Pastor's Time

- Pastor Rick has been serving out his quarantine during his planned vacation time. He prays that this period of unknown will be over soon. He is excited about having Christmas Eve worship together. He thanked the council for their willingness to lead and for their generosity. He welcomes all feedback and ideas.

13. President's Remarks

- Kelly thanked the council and recognized that doing evangelism, education and worship during this time is tough. He encouraged all to keep helping and caring for each other and to reach out to each other for help. He reminded all that this is what church is about – helping and caring for each other. Keep the faith.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Anderson, Office Manager

Trinity Lutheran Church Council

Kelly VenHuizen—President

Bob Schlotman—Vice President

Scott Tranby—Treasurer

Bethany Eberhardt—Education

Paige Hanson—Evangelism

Larry Grandalen—Property-Building

Scott Loge—Property-Grounds

Dane Mueller—Social & Fellowship

Karen Hornung—Stewardship

Nicky Wathne—Worship

Our 2021 Offering Envelopes are here and ready for you to pick up. Please find yours in the church library.

It is time to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars to the organizations of your choice. People tend to forget to do it and it doesn't carry over. You have to redesignate every year or your dollars will just go into Thrivent's fund and they choose where to designate them.



NOTE:

2020—\$1,090.00 received

2019—\$1,560.00 received

Thank you for your consideration!



COUNCIL MINUTES



Edited TLC Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 2, 2020, 7:00pm via Zoom

Present: Pastor Rick, Kelly VenHuizen, Bob Schlotman, Paige Hanson, Karen Hornung, Nicky Wathne, Scott Loge, Larry Grandalen, Dane Mueller, Scott Tranby, Bethany Eberhardt, Allison Anderson

Meeting was called to order by president, Kelly VenHuizen.

Devotions

1. Old Business

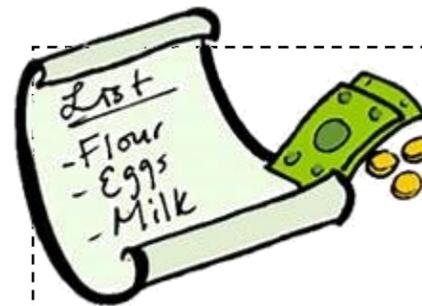
- Video/Streaming Upgrade – the earlier motion to present the upgrade to the congregation remains as the special meeting scheduled for November 8 was postponed rather than canceled and provided that the project bid has not changed.
- Nominating Committee – Kelly will check in with Brad and Carl.
- Drive-up drop box – tabled.
- Furnace repair – Larry has received estimates for the repair from Mike Hanson and Ness Plumbing. He has also submitted a claim with the church insurance company. The current fuel oil backup system is more than adequate to keep the church heated. Scott Loge made a motion that the repair be presented for the approval of the congregation at the annual meeting. The council decided to wait for word from the insurance company. Motion recanted.
- Front entry furnace – Larry reminded the council that this furnace is near the end of expected life and the approximate \$5,000 cost to replace should be kept in mind.

2. Office Manager's Report

- Motion to approve the report by Larry, second by Dane. Motion carried.

3. Secretary's Report

- Motion to approve the report by Scott L., second by Dane. Motion carried.
4. Property/Building Committee Report
 - Expenses to install the donated fuel oil water heater earlier estimated at \$500 would be nearer to \$2,000. Council suggested that the heater not be installed.
 - Roger Schilke offered to prepare an annual to-do list for things such as furnace checks, fuel oil, etc.
 5. Property/Grounds Committee Report
 - Scott, Tatum and Charlie set up the Christmas trees.
 - Tim Erickson will be doing the church snow removal. Sidewalks will be cleaned only for large events.
 6. Evangelism Committee Report
 - The committee sponsored the last curbside popcorn event at the Cooper Theatre.
 - They plan to prepare treat bags for Christmas Eve.
 7. Social & Fellowship Committee Report-nothing to report.
 8. Stewardship Committee Report
 - The cookbooks were delivered to the church today. The books will be sold for \$20 each. Karen thanked everyone for submitting recipes.
 9. Education Report
 - Eight Operation Christmas Child boxes were prepared and shipped.
 10. Worship Committee Report
 - Positive feedback has been received on the recorded worship coming from Pastor's office. The sound quality is better.
 - Nicky has been organizing and meeting with song leaders to record for worship services. She will be recording the Advent readings also.



Below are some good tips to consider when donating to the food shelf. Contact our local Bread of Life Food Pantry if you are donating perishables such as milk, meat, etc. so that someone is available to put it in a freezer or refrigerator. Also they may have a list of things that are currently needed.

Wisdom from a Food Bank Volunteer:

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac & Cheese in the box. But it needs milk & butter which is hard to get from food banks.
2. Boxed Milk is a treasure. Kids need it for cereal, which they get a lot of. Powdered Milk is also needed.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce & spaghetti noodles.
4. Canned Foods should be Pop Tops OR donate Can Openers.
5. Oil is a luxury needed for Rice a Roni which they get a lot of.
6. Spices, Salt & Pepper are a real gift.
7. Tea bags & Coffee are caring gifts.
8. Sugar & Flour are treats.
9. Important are fresh produce donated by farmers & grocery stores.
10. Seeds are great in spring & summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. Rarely is there fresh meat.
12. Tuna & Crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but NEED sandwich bread.
15. Butter or Margarine are good.
16. Eggs are a commodity!
17. Cake mix & Frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dishwashing Detergent is very expensive & is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury & women will cry over them.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.

Bonus: CASH makes it possible for the Food Bank to buy what's missing and buy in bulk.

(Taken from Eric McCool, Facebook)

COFFEE
Donuts And

Our Annual Meeting!

Sunday, January 31 following worship.
Annual reports available soon.

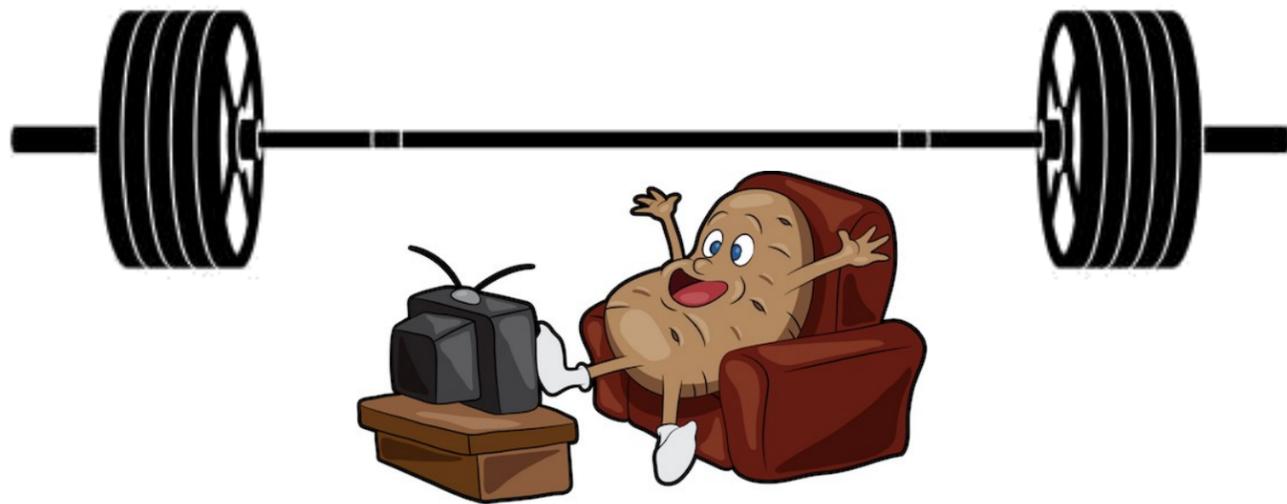
**BOARD MEMBERS
NEEDED**

Some of the TLC Foundation board members have served out their terms. We are thankful for their dedication to our church.

If you would like to serve on our foundation board, please see Pastor Rick.

Quilting

Quilting resumes on Tuesday, Jan. 12 at 9:00am. Everyone welcome!



Pounds Off Pastor (POP)

If you have been worshipping at home you may have thought that the saying about television adding 15-20 pounds really rings true with Pastor Rick. He sure looks "bigger".

Well I am here to tell you that unfortunately, over the last 4-5 months, pastor has been growing and becoming a more rounded individual. Not necessarily for the best. I weighed myself on the first of January and **WOW**, I was back up to 330lbs.

It's time to quit blaming Covid-19 for my weight gain. I need to start eating better, get off the couch and lose this weight. I would like to begin a fundraising campaign called **Pounds Off Pastor**. This campaign has a dual purpose, it holds me accountable and we have a chance to raise funds for good causes.

Individuals and/or families can pledge to give to the **POP** campaign by pledging a set amount of money if goals are met, or pledge to give by the pound. My goal would be to lose 40 pounds by the end of May, so if someone pledges a dollar a pound then they would give \$40 at the end.

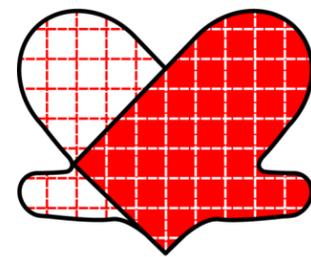
Not only that, I invite you to join in on the journey. That's right, what area (s) of your life would you like to work on? Wanna lose some weight with me? Exercise more? Dedicate to reading the bible this year? Spend more time with the family? Get money stuff organized and on a budget? Better sleep habits? ... I want to walk with you through whatever it may be. If I can help with motivation or tools, let me know. I'll do what I can. We can all **WIN** (What's Important Now) this moment in time. Please also know that your journey is private and will not be shared.

So where is the money going? 20% of funds given will be given away locally, 30% will go to future FCA camps, 20% to the nursing home PT center, 15% to the RC Cooper Athletic Center and 15% to the Weecare daycare center.

Please get in touch with Pastor Rick or Allison in the office if you have any questions, want to pledge, or want to join in the journey—I'd love to hear what you are doing.



Updates on Pastors journey will be shared on the church website and Facebook page.



Helping Hands

serving one another in love

GALATIANS 5:13



Everyone likes a good BOGO. Why not? It's like free money, right? But, it seems sometimes when it comes to food, we don't always think that. We may think, "we'll never eat that many potatoes," or "why do I need two of those?"

While that may be true for some, what about the person who does not have enough money to feed themselves and/or their family? How can they benefit from a BOGO?

You can help them. That's right, what if you took advantage of the BOGO and donated that item(s) to the local food bank or to a family in need? What if you **Get One** and **Give One**?

"Get One/Give One"

The fact is there are many in our community, children included, that go to bed hungry. Others make choices to pay for medication or food. These are not choices that anyone should even have to think about, but they are.

I invite you to participate in "**Get One/Give One**". There are 3 ways to do this:

1. Inform your checker at Miller's that you want to give one to the food pantry, the checker will set that item aside to be taken to the food pantry right here in town.
2. Take the items to the food pantry yourself.
3. Bring the items to Trinity and our church will make sure it gets delivered.

We always encourage you to support our local businesses but if you run across a deal in another town, bring the item(s) you **Got** and **Give** it here in Cooperstown.

GRIEF SHARE

Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30pm
Trinity Lutheran Church

ABC'S

**7th & 8th Grade Classes
resume January 10**

To view our Sunday worship: tlccooperstown.com