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### VISION STATEMENT

Trinity Lutheran Church is a community inspired by God  
to share Christ's good news by what we say and do.

FEBRUARY 2022

## FROM THE PASTOR

### **But what if?**

Maybe the first card game you ever learned to play was 'snap'. I don't remember learning it, but I did teach it to my daughters. It is really easy ... divide up all the cards equally, don't look at the faces of the cards, then we take turns at turning one over. If that card matches the previous one, shout 'SNAP'. First one to shout gets all the turned up cards, and when you get all the cards you win. See ... easy. So right after you explain the rules somebody will likely say (and maybe you just did), "But what if we both shout SNAP at the same time?" That's how we deal with a lot of things in life. The rule says this, and somebody will go digging to find a "But what if?" question. This is not just the stuff of lawyers and physicists (yes, they like to ask lots of "But what if?" questions too).

This is not just a modern phenomenon. In Jesus day he had to deal with some "But what if?" characters like we find in Mark 12:

- The Pharisees asked, as a Jew, is it right to pay taxes to the emperor?
- The Sadducees asked Jesus about a woman who married seven times and "In the resurrection, then, whose wife of the seven

will she be? For all of them had married her."

- A scribe asked, 'Which commandment is the first of all?'

Each of these are "but what if?" questions. So, is there room for that kind of question around our sacraments? As a final year seminary student, I wrote the following for my bishop's examination as I prepared for ordination:

*Baptism is a sacrament, a mystery of God's operational grace and forgiveness. It is God's doing not ours and is God's gift to God's people. With baptism I still have not come up with a convincing argument for ever saying no to a request. Baptism contains an unconditional promise, so how can I be the judge of dispensing God's grace? However, I would push for baptismal preparation for parents, sponsors and/or catechumen. These conversations would be an opening to discuss the ideas of Christian love as a community act. Jesus' command was to love God and love neighbour. That can only be lived out in relationship with others within the whole community of God's people. Baptism is also the initiation of an individual into the holy catholic church. This initiation is for the church community too.*



Have been asked this question several time in 14 years of ministry, “*Can I have a baptism not as part of the regular Sunday morning worship?*” My first reaction is always to ask why and every time I get a good answer (the details of the answer are not the important part).

How does that become an event for our faith community? I guess I have the chance to ask my own “but what if?” question. These baptisms are not part of our normal public (Sunday) worship calendar, “But what if the community came to join in that event?” And that is what I have done each time. I have asked members of council to join us and invite some others from our community plus those who are connected to the new sibling in Christ for a baptism service. To answer my own question, the answer would seem obvious. Baptism **is always** into a community where the individual participates in *Christian love as a community act*. So that’s gotta be a YES – DO IT!

In Christ’s love,  
Pastor Steve



January has come and is almost out the door. The weather has been extremely bitter and we are finally getting snow. If you are like me, I don’t mind it in my backyard or front yard but would prefer it not on the roads and driveway.

We are still with our doors closed as Covid is still hanging in there. The numbers do take a dip but do not seem to continuously drop. Read on to find out about the reopening of Trinity's doors to In-Person Worship. We hope everyone is safe, warm and doing well.

**Return To In-Person Worship** - Well, you didn't have to go far to find the news. Trinity Council has made the decision to reopen our doors as of **February 27<sup>th</sup>**. While we had hoped to open the beginning of February, Synod did ask for everyone to remain closed for another couple of weeks. We know and understand that many are anxious to get back and if we don't reopen, you may decide to look at someplace that is! Please do not do that. We want to see your masked cover smile. We want to give you a 2-metre hug. We want to get back to sharing cookies and coffee/tea/juice with you. So, unless the numbers skyrocket, and the government takes away what they are saying, we will be getting in February, we will be opening.

**Annual Meeting** - As we are not returning until after the date set for our original Annual Meeting, Council made the decision to hold off on our Annual Meeting until **27 March**. We will be, or by the time you read this, will have sent out all of the Annual Report information. Please, if there is anything in there that you strongly disagree with, please let Annette know and she will get in touch with me. Otherwise, please feel free to contact me directly.

**Announcements** - Our staff are working from home currently. Know they are only a phone call away if you need them for anything. We will keep you updated as to their return to working in the church. You are always able to call the office and book an appointment. Telephone messages and emails are checked regularly.

**Birthdays & Anniversaries** - If we do not have the date of your wedding anniversary or birthday, please provide it to Annette. We would like to send a card for those celebrating a special day.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, concerns, please let Annette know and she will get in touch with me. You are always free to reach out to me directly. My number is in the Directory. Let us hope and pray for continued improvement in 2022.

- Deb Pepers  
Council Chair

## 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY MEMORIES



Do you remember the first Trinity service you ever came to? What brought you here? What kept you here? Did you go to Sunday School or confirmation classes? Who were your friends or your teachers?

What are your favourite memories of events, dinners, services, community projects or fundraisers? Were you involved in significant Trinity events such as leaving Missouri Synod, joining the LCA, pastoral call committees or building projects? Do you have any stories your family members told you about when they were members? Who were/are the memorable people you've met at Trinity? The joker, the singer, the dedicated worker who volunteered for everything, the cheerful one who talked to every single person?

We're asking for your stories, memories and photos of Trinity, its clergy, and its members. We'll be combining them into a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary memory book for the archives. Write as much as you want. Don't be concerned about duplication of submissions as everyone's memories are different. The more everyone contributes, the better the project will turn out.

Do you have photos of the Trinity building itself, both old and new, the parsonage or people and events from any year to submit so they can be catalogued and added to our archives? We would love to see those old pictures of church construction, Mother and Daughter Dinners, Men's Club meetings, Sunday School, Christmas Pageants, choir, youth and young adult events, TLW, luncheons, Christmas dinners, confirmations, baptisms, yard sales, concerts and celebrations! You can bring in copies or originals to be copied and returned. Send your electronic submissions by email to Nancy Manners at [ndmanners@execulink.com](mailto:ndmanners@execulink.com) or send your paper/photo submissions to the church office or to Nancy at her address in the directory.

~ Nancy Manners



### CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Ken Stahlke (4)  
Heidi Beisswenger-Mooney (8)  
Barbara Stahlke (8)  
David Vbranch (15)  
Elaine Dahms (16)  
Jean Krautner (18)  
Nick Sauter (20)  
Karen Stroh (23)  
Guenther Sturm (23)

*Please ensure that we have your birthday & wedding anniversary dates so that we can be sure to acknowledge your special days.*



*To all those who sent  
congratulatory messages  
to us for our 50th Wedding  
Anniversary, the card  
delivered by Deb Pepers,  
and to Annette.  
We truly appreciated your  
thoughtfulness & kind words.*

*Sincerely Doug & Jean Hohnstein*

### LUTHERAN MEN'S CLUB

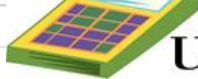
Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 the Lutheran Men's Club will **not** be able to have their Breakfast Meeting in February. We hope to be able to meet in March.



TREASURER'S REPORT

For the period ending

December 31, 2021



Finance Update

Please find below a report of this years receipts and disbursements compared to last year.

Jan to Dec

Last Year

Variance

Current Operating Fund

The current fund is used to cover our day to day expenses of operating the church.

The expenses incurred are based on the budget approved by the congregation.

Envelope Offering	182,377	191,591	-9,214
Rent Income	10,550	5,689	4,861
Grants	9,367	9,499	-132
Wage Subsidy 2020	78,988	3,328	75,660
Disbursements	247,781	241,493	6,288
Surplus (Deficit)	33,501	-31,386	64,887

Benevolence Receipts

Funds designated as Benevolence or marked to another charity (ie Mission Services) are deposited into this fund. Weekly Benevolence collections are forwarded to the Synod.

Receipts	6,813	6,092	721
Disbursements	6,768	6,092	676
Surplus (Deficit)	45	0	45

Debt Reduction

Receipts	1,352	1,217	135
Disbursements	-	-	0
Surplus (Deficit)	1,352	1,217	135

Help for Others

Funds designated as Help for Others go to fund our outreach program for Northern Hospitality

Receipts	1,125	1,640	-515
Disbursements	1,187	1,402	-214
Surplus (Deficit)	-62	238	-301

~ Lynne Killinger, Treasurer