

Pastor's Report

January 14, 2022

"You have done many good things for me (us), Lord You promised." Ps 119:65

God his good and has been with us as Trinity Lutheran Church and School throughout this year and the past 100. Although life and ministry in this world comes with its challenges God gets us through and provides us with new opportunities. He is faithful and this is HIS Church and we are His servants.

Worship – Our attendances have been trending up but there are some exceptions due to sickness. We are seeing 145- 150 as the new normal for all three weekend services. This does not include the online worshipers which then points towards the 175+ area. Our Christmas weekend services brought more than 420 worshipers (350 on Christmas Eve.) What do you think, can we reach a 200 + attendance level by Easter?

Our choir, bell choir, soloists and musicians are all enriching our weekly worship. We held a Longest Night service especially for those who have suffered loss or loneliness, Dec 18. We held 3 Christmas Eve Services 5, 7, 9 p.m. and it seemed as though these times served us well. We held Christmas Day (Sat) with no evening service and held only one service on Sunday, Dec. 26. Our New Year's Eve Service Friday, no Saturday and both Sunday, Jan 2 services. No SS was held Christmas or NY Eve weekend. Epiphany service Cantata, was held Jan 9 with very good reviews.

I commend Tom Naus on his fine leadership in our music ministry. Thanks to all our volunteers who handled all the extra details of our services. Thanks also to everyone who decorated our sanctuary for Christmas – beautiful!

Acolytes are being reactivated and will be seen in more of our services. Thanks Tim Norris, Catherine Simmons, and Gail Wilkosz for spear heading this and of course our confirmands!

Witness – Lake Eola Christmas Tree Lighting was successful although it did not include our children singing this year. I've been told we will likely be invited back next year. We did have 3 active booths. One for food and drinks, one for crafts and another for photos against a Christmas background. Thank you Outreach Team. Congregational Christmas dinner was also held to help us reconnect as members to one another and to have an event that we could invite others into. Good food and fellowship.

Bible Classes – Conversations of Grace was held with Pastor and talked about making the most of opportunities we find to share our faith. The WOMEN of the WORD (WOW) are now exploring the book, "Joining Jesus on His Mission," being an everyday missionary.

The Outreach Team is looking at a form of evangelism called, "Oikos" or Relational evangelism that has identified that most people who are attracted to Christ do so through human bridges with friends and family members (75-90%). A second fact is that events offer us opportunity to introduce "our" guest to our friends at an event; anything from a Super Bowl Party to a Church Service. This is why we have social events to reconnect with one another and our new guests. Evangelism is a team effort.

Word – Immerse Bible Reading Experience will be resuming the weekend of January 23 and will be the final book in the series. This means that a half dozen groups will have completed reading the entire bible! That's quite an accomplishment. Thanks to our leaders. Some groups are planning to do a restart by rereading Immerse Messiah (the New Testament).

SS resumed for all ages 4 through adult. Thank you to our teachers. Our enrollment is low and we encourage all our parents to send their children and also consider coming to one or our adult classes.

Fellowship – We have come a long way to provide opportunity for the congregation and school to reconnect. We have hosted a Reformation, Christmas and several memorial service luncheons. This as I earlier said under Witness, is necessary for us to build/rebuild our church and school family connections.

Stewardship – God has provided. We are coming through a tough season of COVID and we have had both generous and faithful members supporting the Lord's work at Trinity. It does appear that giving is tied to attendance and that those who are not attending as regularly are, in general, giving less than was anticipated. We have also had some generous gifts that have helped the bottom line. The Lord has PROVIDED.

Ministry Teams –

I have been working on "volunteer ministries" using six areas called for by our bylaws. I would also like to consider adding two additional ones.

- Stewardship
- Evangelism
- Fellowship
- Property
- Youth
- Human Care

Possible Additions

- Worship
- Education

I have had conversations around who might be "point" people or team leaders and also have a list of possible volunteers in most of these areas and in some cases even initial ideas. We know that this is necessary for Trinity to make this organizational commitment and that we are beginning to see some ministry momentum and collaboration of ideas. We must strike while the iron is hot. I am calling for a Town Hall meeting with Leadership and volunteer point people at a date to be set. I would like to have something to report at our congregational voters meeting that this work is now being taken up.

I believe there are also other details that must be addressed by Leadership including; long term financial capacity, properties -not only maintenance and repairs but also utilization of each of our buildings and campus to enhance our gospel mission. We also need to address staffing to meet the current and future needs of Trinity Lutheran Church and School. In short we need to develop a comprehensive ministry master plan. I look forward to taking up this task with you as we face our future knowing and believing that the Lord has done many good things for us just as He has promised. (Ps 119:65 NLT)

ADD:

Magnolia building repairs on wood siding near roof line will be replaced and painted. Inside the old wall paper will be removed and walls painted.

Human (Member) Care – will make phone contact with our members, especially those whom we have not regularly seen. Findings will be recorded and sent to Pastor and Katherine for compilation and follow up. This is part of Project Connect.

Project Connect also includes; birthday, anniversary cards of entre membership, CDC birthdays, Adopt a Classroom, Trinity Events, class room visits, etc.

Pastor Doug Kalleesen