



**Trinity
Lutheran Church**
LCMS



**FEBRUARY -
APRIL 2025**

TIDINGS

STATEMENT
Our Mission
STATEMENT
STATEMENT
STATEMENT

“To share the good news
of Jesus Christ”



**Our Vision
STATEMENT**

“To serve as God guides
us to bring people closer
to Jesus Christ through
worship, Bible
studies, prayer and
Fellowship”

WORSHIP
with us

**Sundays @
8:00 am & 10:30 am**



**Sundays @
9:15 am**

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*Love
never fails.*
1 Corinthians 13:8



Ash Wednesday Service

March 5 @ 4pm

Lenten Midweek Service

Wednesdays @ 4pm

March 12, 19, 26, and April 9



Palm Sunday—April 13

8am & 10:30am

Maundy Thursday—April 17

4pm

Good Friday—April 18

4pm

Easter Sunday—April 20

8:00am & 10:30am



"For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end."

(Ecclesiastes 3:1, 11)

Dear Trinity Family,

As I write my final article for the *Tidings*, it has just been a few days since the members of our Properties Ministry Team completed their annual pruning of the beautiful Crape Myrtles that line our property. If you know anything about these wonderful plants, their display truly reflects the four seasons in their life-cycle. The most difficult and mysterious season is the pruning one when the branches are cut back to the trunk. They're not very pretty at this point, but everyone knows with spring they'll blossom once again stronger and healthier than before. It confirms the fact, *"God has made everything beautiful for its own time...and people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end."*

You called me 8.5 years ago to serve as your Associate Pastor and over that time we have journeyed together through a variety of different seasons where we couldn't see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end. I think back to our Small Group Ministries, the community partnership forming Trinity South, the COVID Pandemic, the land purchase in Bushnell, the retirement of Pastor Dan, the Intentional Interim Ministry with Pastor Schoolcraft, a new Constitution and By-Laws, and the implementation of the new Accountable Leader Model for effective mission and ministry in sharing the Gospel throughout the world, and now calling a new Pastor.

Maybe you're wondering, what do Crape Myrtles have to do with me retiring? As the writer to Ecclesiastes notes, *"it's all about the season of life when God makes all things beautiful for its own time."* I have always been a firm believer that God calls His pastors to meet the specific needs of His Church for a particular time, place, history, and purpose that we may or may not see, but we can take comfort the Church is in His hands. I feel especially blessed in these final days of my ministry knowing and seeing why God called me to Trinity Lutheran for sharing these seasons with you. New spiritual foundations have been laid and are ready for building. Spring is around the corner! Trinity is ready to blossom into something new and beautiful made by God!

How do I know? Jesus said in John 15:1-5, *"I am the true Vine and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He trims clean so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself, it must remain in the Vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me."*

I thank God for calling me into the ministry and the many people and congregations who've supported me along the way. Thank you for the privilege and opportunity I've had to serve as your Pastor. I want to thank our staff and Ministry Leadership Teams for their servant hearts and tireless dedication to the challenges and opportunities we've shared together in mission and ministry. My last Sunday preaching will be on March 2 and final day of employment will be March 10, 2025.

Finally, I want to thank my wife Kimberley, for all of her love and support through these 38 years of ministry we've shared together as a team. She's always "been my better half" as the members of my vicarage church always pointed out, and I'd agree with them. Now, in these final days of my ministry, I just ask that you would pray for Kimberley and I, and our family, as we make our final preparations and celebrate this new season of life.

Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Blair Clark

AND ^{now} these
THREE remain:
FAITH, HOPE & LOVE.
But the greatest of
these is LOVE.
1 CORINTHIANS 13:13, NIV

From the
Chairman

“We live by faith, not by sight” 2 Corinthians 5:7

*“As for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my savior;
my God will hear me” Micah 7:7*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Trinity is in a season of **“CHANGE”**:

- * Our beloved Pastor Blair has decided to retire in March. We are currently calling a new pastor who, if he accepts will not be here until May. If he declines our call, we may be starting over.
- * We welcome Carl Kruger to the Board of Directors. There is one more member slot available. (Please prayerfully consider joining this Leadership group.)
- * We are **ALL** getting older and looking forward to meeting Jesus.
- * We have a new President of our Country.
- * A cease fire in Gaza.
- * Snow in Florida!!

Do these changes make you feel **ANXIOUS?** **What does God have to say to us about this change?**

- *“You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.” Psalm 73:24*
- *“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” John 1:11-12*
- *“For we walk by faith, not by sight.” 2 Corinthians 3:18*
- *“The Lord will give strength to his people; the Lord will bless His people with peace.” Psalm 29:11*

YES, we are God’s people. He loves us/his children. He will give us his GRACE to face **ANYTHING**. Do not look at this fallen world, have faith in the unseen world of God. As individuals and members of God’s church, we will only have peace if we keep God in the CENTER of everything. We need each other to build each other up in love as a family of God.

Please pray for your elders, staff, pastor, board of directors, and all who volunteer and our church as a whole that we serve Jesus with patience and faith for his glory.

*Paul Stieber
Chairman of the Board of Directors*

Board of Directors:
Paul Stieber—Chairman
Wayne Greenwell—Co-Chairman
Rusty Ryan—Treasurer
Joan Egeland—Secretary
Carl Kruger—Member at Large
Michael Vencion—Member at Large

JOIN WITH US FOR A SPECIAL WORSHIP CELEBRATION
FEATURING DAVE AND BARB ANDERSON
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23
8:00 & 10:30am

Make plans now to join with us for a special worship celebration and musical concert featuring Dave and Barb Anderson, of Shepherd’s Canyon Retreat Ministry, who will be leading us in worship and song on Sunday, February 23, at both the 8:00 & 10:30AM worship services. Dave & Barb have been witnessing Jesus Christ in word and song in LCMS congregations and youth gatherings 40+ years and has published The Other Song Book and The Best of the Best. Dave and Barb together with 5 others survived a plane crash in the Bering Sea and were rescued within one hour in what has been called the most dramatic air/sea rescue in aviation history. They are also ambassadors for the Shepherd’s Canyon Retreat Ministry that provides week-long counseling for men and women in full-time ministry who are in the midst of stress, burn-out, and conflict, and is based in Arizona. A free-will offering will be taken for their ministry. They will also lead the Sunday Morning Bible Study between services where they will share more about their ministry with Shepherd’s Canyon.

ALWAYS FAITHFUL BIBLE STUDY

The Always Faithful Bible Study group meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 10:00 am in Room 3. We have been studying the minor prophets of the Old Testament. We have completed studies of Ezra, Nehemiah, Amos, Obadiah and Jonah. We are currently studying Micah. Please join us ! Materials are provided. There is no cost for this Bible study, just bring your Bible. For more information, call or text Jan Garner Thank you.

MICAH: PREACHER OF PROMISE

February 4	Lesson 8	Micah 3
February 18	Lesson 9	Micah 4
March 4	Lesson 10	Micah 5
March 18	Lesson 11	Micah 6
April 1	Lesson 12	Micah 7

WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE?

“With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God? *Micah 6:1-8*



MEN'S CLUB/ BIBLE STUDY

Men's Club



Monthly Meetings

The Trinity Men's Club meets the first Monday of each month at 8:00am in the Fellowship Hall.

Join us for a breakfast of biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs, and hash browns!

Pastor Bryan O'Conner will leads us in a more in depth study of Sunday's Bible Readings. A brief business meeting follows.

Next meeting is Monday, Feb. 3, 2025
Questions? Call Jim Keenan

A note from Colonel Carlan:



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

Pastor Blair Clark in previous sermon stated “Expect the unexpected and ponder anew what our almighty triune God can do. “ I joined Trinity Lutheran Church when the new sanctuary was just built. I start each day with a joyful and grateful Christian heart, for those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength, they will soar on wings like eagles! (*Isaiah 40:31*) I was happy to celebrate my 90th birthday on January 29, 2025!

On February 4, 2025, I will move to Homestead Hills, an Independent Living Facility located in North Carolina. I will be 10 minutes away from my son, his wife and their three children. My new address is: Homestead Hills, 3230 Homestead Club Drive, #330, Winston Salem, NC 27103.

I will transfer my membership to St. Johns Lutheran Church and sing bass in their choir! I want to thank Jan Garner and Karen Matthews for their leadership and the choir members for their fellowship. Thank you Gerri Wilt for the readings and Roy Egeland for reaching out to me on my Sundays to read. Thank you Jim Keenan for the Men's Club!

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope” Jeremiah 29:11

Shalom—We are truly blessed,

Colonel/Dr. Carlan

Peace



Of all the wonderful prayer shawls that were blessed in December, 71 were taken to "Beyond the Walls" food pantry and outreach ministry in Leesburg. They had asked for "some", and I told them to take what they needed. They were so grateful to be able to bring outer warmth to their people, along with their ministry.

Now I would like to invite all ladies who know how to knit or crochet, to make a prayer shawl this year, to build up our supply. Our regular meetings are on the 4th Monday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in classroom 1 in the Fellowship Hall. We have a supply of yarn in the hall closet, and would love to have many of you join us!!!!

For questions or pattern, contact Wanda David

Friendship



LUNCHEON

Join this group of friends for fun and fellowship at the Oakwood Restaurant at 10:50am on the last Saturday of each month!

See the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Reach out to Joan Herro if you have questions.

The next luncheons dates are as follows:

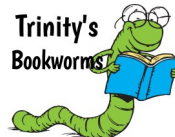
February 22 & March 22 & April 26

Trinity Singles

Trinity Singles meet on the 3rd Friday of every month @ 5:00pm at various local restaurants.

Look for details in weekly Announcements!

Sign-up sheets are located in the Narthex.



HUNGRY FOR A GOOD BOOK?

The Bookworms meet the first Wednesday of each month at 1:30pm in Classroom One by the kitchen. Books can usually be found at your local library or on Kindle. We usually have at least one copy we can pass around. Following is our upcoming book discussion schedule with a brief synopsis of each. Suggestions from members and friends make up our list and are always appreciated.

Feb. 5: *"Plain Truth"* by Jodi Picoult. Picoult has been a favorite author of our book club. Each of her books is a different, often recent topic and always teaches us something new. This book gives background information about the Amish and in particular their legal dealings within and outside the community.

March 5: *"Masterpiece"* by Christian Author, Francine Rivers. Did you know that there are professional graffiti artists who are actually hired to paint on bridges and buildings? "The Bird" remains unidentified until his assistant encourages him to seek more than fame or money through God.

April 2: *"Aftermath"* by Terri Blackstone, another Christian artist that we enjoyed last month with *Catching Christmas*. You won't see the ending coming in this thriller.

May 7: *"The Ride of Her Life"* is a true story by Elizabeth Letts. If you have fond memories of road trips in the 1950s, before interstate highways, driving through the backroads and stopping at "mom and pop motels", you will love this book. Bet you didn't travel by horse like Annie over 3,000 miles from Maine to California! Yes, this is a true story that is guaranteed to bring up great memories of a time long gone.

Please join us for any discussion even if you haven't finished the book. Questions, contact Carol Keenan.





Established in 2003, the Community of Gratitude, Inc. located behind the Ocklawaha United Methodist Church at 13335 Volkmann Avenue, Ocklawaha, provided food to 12 households in the first month. Currently they serve 822 households and 2,657 individuals in the following zip codes: Ocklawaha 32183, 32179; Weirsdale 32195; East Lake Weir 32133; The Forest/Silver Springs 34488 and Umatilla 32784.

When the neighbors, previously referred to as clients, approach the facilities they are met by a trained volunteer who completes an intake interview to verify their eligibility. If the family does not reside in the above zip code area they are provided a document whereupon they can scan a code, showing an area that they may utilize. A qualified family may come once a month for food.

The facility currently has approximately 70 volunteers and can always use more help in assisting those in need. They need volunteers to organize and stock items, place food items into grocery boxes, deliver boxes to the vehicles, conduct intake of new neighbors, enter information into the database, and other administrative duties.

Trinity Lutheran provides volunteers who deliver our donations and may also assist in the facility. The donations are delivered every Tuesday morning from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Thursday- 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM, and Saturday- 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

The sign up list is located in the Narthex, **HOWEVER**, we are blessed in that we have volunteers who have volunteered for each month in 2025.

The Community of Gratitude is seeking volunteers who can volunteer their time to help on the open dates at the facility. You may contact Jim Steinmark via the church officer or contact Director Sharon Brewer directly at 352-288-3499 for further information.



A Note from Trinity's Sewing Angels

The Sewing Angels love nothing more than distribution day! December 5th was a big one for us! We took care of the young and old! We divided all the items we had sewn for children's and baby charities evenly between : Healthy Families, Alpha Center for Women, Shephard's Lighthouse, The Pregnancy Center, and the Infant and Toddler Pantry.

Totals for the 5 deliveries:

68 Quilts, 20 burp cloths, 45 crib sheets, and 265 baby washcloths. Leslie Adams from the Infant and Toddler Pantry from the Congregational Church in Summerfield came to our meeting to tell us about their outreach.

Also on December 5th we put together a few items for the Sherriff's Department of Marion County, which included 3 camp style blankets, 3 quilts, and 3 children's quilts.

I have a neighbor who distributes items to bring cheer to the forgotten at nursing homes. We put together a bag of items for her as well. It contained 10 crocheted lap robes, 10 walker bags, and 15 senior bibs.

Gigi's house received 14 headbands, 4 small toys, 4 pillow cases & 236 Christmas card ornaments. Member Julia Mack found out about 2 very worthy charities that were in need of prayer shawls from her friend Tami. Julia reached out to Trinity's Prayer Shawl ministry and they kindly donated shawls for Julia to distribute.

Hand 'n Hand Recovery is a top rated inpatient drug Treatment Center in nearby Eustis and 13 prayer shawls were also provided for this ministry.

Beyond the Walls Food Pantry, a ministry of Heritage Christian Church of Fruitland Park was the other recipient of 95 prayer shawls and 4 crocheted blankets. They have a prayer team that prays with the recipients when they receive their food. At Christmas time they bless them with a bible and a prayer shawl.

We are so blessed by giving to all these wonderful charities and by all the hands that put their love into making all the items, and those who donate materials to help us carry on our ministry!

The following week we had our annual Christmas party and after enjoying some food and fellowship we entertained ourselves by working together on creating some quilt kits.

Our current focus is making blankets from heavier weight fabrics. Many hands help make the labor light! Come join us. We meet every Thursday from 9am-12:00pm.

Sue Lehota



LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



The Lutheran Women's Missionary League is the official women's auxiliary of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS). All women of Trinity Lutheran Church are members and are encouraged to serve others through mission, education, inspiration, and service. We invite you to attend our meetings and learn what we are all about as we "Serve the Lord with Gladness"

Psalm 100:2 our motto.



The February LWML meeting will be on Tuesday, February 25 at 1pm. After our business meeting we'll be hearing a speaker from *Forward Path*.

Forward Path offers housing for young people who are aging out of the Foster Care system and have no home to which to return. We will be doing an ingathering of hygiene, cleaning, and paper products. The young people have to purchase these items on their own and we all know expensive they can be. Please join us for an informative afternoon.

Our Tuesday, March 25 at 1:00pm meeting will be a special Lenten presentation in the sanctuary. Dee Collier will be presenting "Mary, the Mother of Jesus." Dee does a phenomenal job of representing different historical people. You may recall she visited Trinity last year portraying Corie Ten Boom. We will be selling tickets for \$10/pp. A charity will be selected to receive our offering at a later date. This meeting is open to everyone in the congregation! Don't miss out on this remarkable presentation!



Our April meeting is Tuesday, April 22 at 1pm. Rev. David Houck from Sozo Kids will be our speaker and we will have an ingathering—to be announced at a later date.



LWML Mite Box Collection

1st Sunday of each month!

If a contribution cannot be made at the beginning of the month, it can be made at any time. The Mite Box is always available in the Narthex.

We are also starting to plan our North Central Florida Zone Rally which will be on Saturday, May 3.

Please watch the bulletin for further details.



LWML Red Boot Tea

Thank you to all who participated in our annual Red Boot Tea. It was a great event! We once again thank Donna Faiella as this was her last official event as President of our LWML!

We wish her and John the best!

Fellowship/LWML Events



Christmas
Reception



Secret
Prayer Pal
Reveal



2025 Cantata Celebration





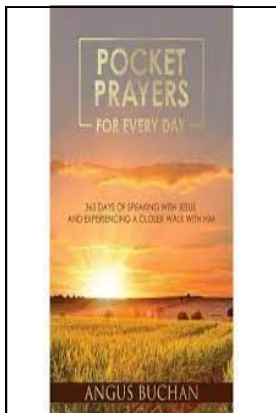
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH CHRISTIAN CANCER CARE BLESSINGS MINISTRY

The Christian Cancer Care Blessings (CCCB) project is a ministry of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) of Trinity Lutheran Church (TLC) striving to make living with cancer more comfortable through God's love and blessings.



We have been very busy packing and distributing care bags. Each bag contained a Pocket Prayer Book or N.T. Bible, a Cancer Pamphlet, a colorful bookmark and scripture message along with hand lotion and lip balm, and a special personal note of encouragement. Also included were donated items such as boxed teas, sugar free cough drops, hard candy, puzzle books, mechanical pencils, and non-skid socks. There were beautiful handmade lap blankets, crosses and hearts, and small bags containing a port pillow and a tissue holder. All items donated and made with love.

Remember that **YOU** are a part of this ministry. Cancer Care bags can be picked up at the Welcome Desk, at no charge, and can be delivered in person to someone needing God's comfort. If you would like us to send a bag out of state, please leave the name and address information at the Welcome Desk and someone will send it for you, also at no cost. Recently, we have mailed care bags to New Jersey, New York and Michigan.



This is an ongoing ministry and we will need to replenish our supplies. Supplies donated and/or handmade by you can be dropped off in Room 4. Our bin is located in the back and marked CCCB. Thank you for your generosity. We would not be able to provide this ministry without donations. If you would like to donate for materials that we need to purchase or funds for mailing, please put CCCB on the memo line of your check.

Volunteers needed: If you have been through a cancer related illness or know someone who has, you will find this ministry very rewarding. It feels good to give back and be a part of sharing God's love with others in need. We welcome you to join us. For more information, call or text Jan Garner. Thank you.

1 John 4:7-8 (NLT)

"Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a

Memories from 2024 Tapestry of Light Cantata



Installation of Church Officers and Elder Ministry Team



Board of Directors

Paul Steiber, Chairman

Wayne Greenwell, Co-Chairman

Joan Egeland, Corporate Secretary

Rusty Ryan, Treasurer

Michael Vencion, Member at Large

Carl Kruger, Member at Large

(Vacancy, Member at Large)

Elder Ministry Team

Leonard Bremer; Bryce Buuck, Mike David, Roy Egeland, Will Evans, Jim Keenan, Chuck Matthias, Jim Moore, Bill Schwieger and Chuck Wilt



YOU ARE INVITED TO
PASTOR BLAIR'S
RETIREMENT CELEBRATION
SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2025
11:30AM–1:30PM

In case you have not heard, our much-loved Pastor Blair Clark is retiring after 38 years of loving, devoted and faithful service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! His final service is Sunday, March 2, 2025 at 10:00am.

Pastor Blair has done an extraordinary job shepherding the Trinity family. We are truly blessed beyond measure to have been under his care and love for these eight plus years! Kimberley, his lovely and devoted wife, has also been an amazing servant in many ways throughout their time at Trinity. Her love and support will be surely missed!

The reception will be held in the Fellowship Hall and light refreshments will be served during that time giving everyone an opportunity to give their congratulations during the reception. A basket for cards will be available and you are encouraged to bring your best wishes to show your appreciation and affection for Pastor Blair and Kimberley's years of service at Trinity.

"Retirement is a blank sheet of paper. It is a chance to redesign your life into something new and different." ~

Patrick Foley.