

Trinity Times

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

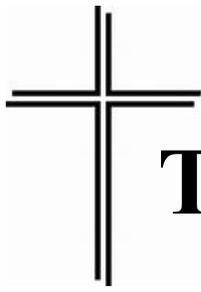
In this Autumn season, keeping our lawns free of leaves quite often seems like a losing battle. No sooner than we rake or mulch the leaves and a wind, or a storm blows more leaves onto those clean spaces we create. We go to sleep with clean flower beds and empty lawns only to wake and find an entire maple tree has deposited their entire contents into our areas. After our first winter storm, we cheer when we watch the leaves from our trees blow into our neighbors yard only to look back 15 minutes later to see the entire forest from down the street has blown into ours. Quickly we become overwhelmed, unable to remove the leaves faster than they fall.

Just as leaves overcome our lawns in the Autumn season, so too does Jesus overcome the Kingdom of darkness. In the story of the demoniac in Luke, Jesus casts out a demon from a man due to the superior strength and power of God, dwelling within him. The demon cannot resist this superior power and is compelled to obey Jesus and leave the man. The falling leaves overpower the person raking or mulching them, Jesus' power overpowers the powers of darkness enslaving human beings. The rake and the mower cannot keep up with the piling of leaves, and the forces of evil cannot keep up with and overcome the power of Jesus Christ.

But this power of Christ which attacks and invades the kingdom of evil, is not always well received particularly by the religious authorities. They see the power of God which invades the kingdom of darkness, but they also see that power as a threat to invade their own kingdoms, that is the kingdoms the religious authorities created. Being attacked by the overwhelming power of God present in Christ Jesus, they proceed to defend themselves. They accuse Jesus of being demonic, and through that demonic power casting out demons (being demonic they could destroy him). Others test Jesus by supernatural signs (as if the exorcism were not already enough). Having been threatened by Jesus' overwhelming power to attack and invade and disarm all opposing rival kingdoms, they resort to defending their kingdoms by any means necessary.

We are the same. Each of us has and is building a kingdom of our own. This is after all the American Dream, each of us has the legal and God given right to become the king or queen of our own empires. But one power exists in the world which can and does attack our self-made kingdoms and which we are powerless to overcome. The power of the Kingdom of God. For some held in the bondage of sin and weakness and death, this overwhelming power is a relief and a "saving." The sick, the demonized, the poor, the sinners all welcome this saving power with gratitude and relief. But those attempting to build rival kingdoms to the Kingdom of God, this superior power and strength is met not with welcome and acknowledgment. It is met with violence and rejection, being a rival to be opposed and conquered instead of a blessing to be welcomed and accepted. They in fact cannot accept Jesus and the Kingdom he brings, because it means that their kingdoms must be given over and ruled and managed by Christ and not by them.

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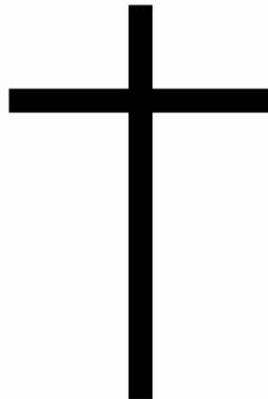


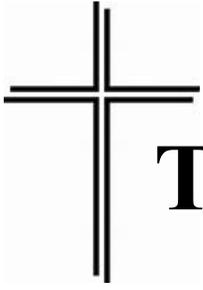
Trinity Times

It is no surprise therefore that even in today's world, many people and many religious people cannot and will not surrender their kingdoms to the Kingdom of God, *which has come near*, because they will not surrender to a superior and overwhelming power, even the power of God which they pretend to accept and follow. Jesus is not the Lord to follow, but a rival king to be fought and resisted. They defy and rebel every effort of God to work upon them and for their blessing, because it means their kingdom now becomes part and parcel of God's Kingdom. Everything built, accumulated, and bought must be handed over to the King and for the King's purposes. *Every knee must bend, and every tongue confess...*

This begs the question about us and about everything in our earthly "kingdoms," can we surrender them to a superior power, in truth the omnipotent power? Will we voluntarily acknowledge a greater Kingdom than whatever kingdom we could build? Will we openly relinquish all that we are and all that we have to the "stronger man" or will we fight the losing fight against the falling leaves, will we fight the losing fight against the invading Kingdom of God? We will bear true faith in the ultimate and superior power in the universe, Jesus Christ or will we fight the doomed fight against his attacking and invading Kingdom?

In Christ,
Rev. Mark





Trinity Times

A Note From Session

Sisters and Brothers,

Session continues to (safely) meet to do the business of Trinity and to attempt to see that we move forward as we are being led by God.

Worship continues to be faithfully attended by those who feel able to meet.

As you know, life and church look different than what we are used to. Let us continue to work together to do what we can to be the church we are called to be.

The upcoming holidays will be celebrated differently this year. We will not have our congregational Thanksgiving Potluck. Our family gatherings at Thanksgiving and Christmas may be smaller than usual. Let us continue to be thankful for what we have: homes, family, friends, church, and the ever-present love of God.

Beth Dougherty will be the Elder-on-Call for November.

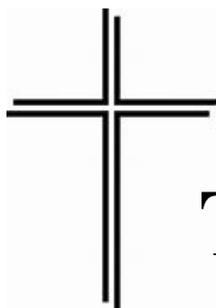
Peace and health be with you,

Mary Belding, Clerk



Communion is served the first Sunday of each month during our worship service. November 1st from 1-2pm, Rev. Mark will be serving communion in the church parking lot for those who are not comfortable to attend worship at this time. You will stay inside your car and will be served communion.

For more information please call the church office 993-7111.



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Property and Finance

Grateful.... Thankful.... Blessed....

God is Good! The new multimedia sound system has been installed! We are so grateful to Grise Audio Visual and Craig Reiter. We also had an anonymous donation of the new computer and software necessary to run the system efficiently.

We are happy to report that through donations, the peace pole is getting a makeover! Thank you Nancy Sabo and Hobart Shiflet!

The group has been busy working on the 2021 church budget. Managing the finances of the church and the ability for us to operate effectively and efficiently can be challenging.

We are currently reviewing our contract with the cleaning company Rags, Brooms, and Mops. With the current situation of COVID, our church usage is limited, as well as our finances. Moving into 2021 we must consider making some changes to our operations financial situation. Even though the cleaners are doing a great job, this is an area where we, the members of Trinity, can help. There is a lot of love in this church family and we love this church. If you can spare 4 hours each week, or even one week a month, please contact Beth Dougherty.

Property and Finance are asking for your help. Please contact Beth Dougherty at 440-661-1416 if you have recommendations or contacts in the following:

1. The fence polls from the chain link fence in the lot where the house was need removed. These polls are cemented in the ground.
2. The outside of the Church is in need of a brick and mortar assessment and repair.
3. The doors in the back of the sanctuary on the east side need replaced.
4. The air conditioning unit needs serviced.
5. There is a leak in our gas stove in the kitchen. The gas has been turned off but the stove needs serviced.

Contractors have been contacted for all of the above but services have not been confirmed and quotes have not been submitted. It is important to complete these needs as soon as possible. Any help in securing someone is greatly appreciated.

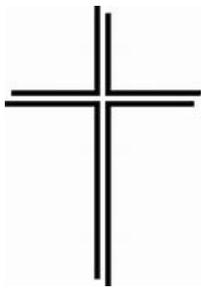
As we move into 2021, it is time to be thinking about project ideas that can be managed by the Capital Improvement fund. Our current balance is \$47.10. The account remains open and we will continue to receive donations to assist with additional projects. Your ideas will be greatly received and a Town Hall meeting will be scheduled sometime in the first quarter of 2021 to discuss. Thank you to everyone who has graciously donated to the fund.

The Property and Finance committee

would like to thank all who have continued supporting the church during these difficult times.

Blessings to all

Beth Dougherty



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Community Outreach

Community Council, through the generosity of Trinity, has been busy with the following:

Providing lunches to Youth Opportunity young adults on Tuesdays;

Purchased miscellaneous food and spices for G.O. Ministries for the meals they provide to our community daily;

Purchased sanitizing products at the request of Children Services to provide to foster families;

The Mask Makers of Trinity contributed 100 masks for foster families;

And, last but not least, we continue to fill the bin for Faith Lutheran Church for their food pantry.

Also, we will be looking into adopting foster children for Christmas again this year. Yes, Christmas is right around the corner so be on the lookout for more information.

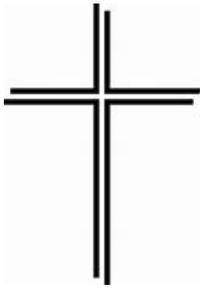
Thanks for all your support and generosity to assist the Community Council Committee in all that they do.

Be Safe, Be Well,

Community Council

On Sunday, September 13th, the Congregation celebrated Rev Mark's 4th Anniversary with Trinity. Following the guidelines of social distancing, Rev. Mark was showered with cards and signs to extend our true appreciation for all he has done and continuing to do. We are very blessed for Rev. Mark and his family to be with us.





Trinity Times

A Note From Scrip

The holidays are coming! Scrip cards are an easy and efficient way to shop.
Order early and often!



See Mary B after church, call or text 440.862.6786, or e-mail at mbelding237@gmail.com.

Thank you for all the support you are giving to the Scrip program.

Dee and Mary greatly appreciate our “regular” customers and thank all who participate.

Blessings from Co-coordinators of Trinity’s Scrip Program,
Dee Fassett and Mary Belding

The ROMEO group has decided to begin meeting again on the second Tuesday of each month for those who want to come out and enjoy breakfast and fellowship. Please join us Tuesday, November 10th, at Deb’s Diner 8am.

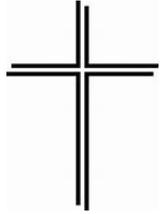


Thank
You

Thank-you to everyone for your thoughts, prayers, and cards. Your kindness is much appreciated.

Wilma Weekly





November 2020

Elder on Call: Beth Dougherty 440-661-1416
 Deacon on Call: Kathy Depp 440-466-2267
 Website www.trinityashtabula.org
 Email trinitypres04@gmail.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Worship 10:30am Drive-up Communion 1-2pm	2	3 Al-Anon 7pm	4 Adult Study 10am Deacons Mtg. 5:00pm Re-Open Mtg. 6:30pm Clean & Free 7pm	5 Adult Study 7pm	6	7 Parish Mtg. 10am
8 2¢ A Meal Collection Worship 10:30am	9	10 ROMEOS 8am Al-Anon 7pm	11 Adult Study 10am Property & Finance Mtg. 6pm Session 7pm Clean & Free 7pm	12 Adult Study 7pm	13	14
15 Worship 10:30am	16 Rev Mark on Vac 	17 Al-Anon 7pm	18 Clean & Free 7pm	19	20	21
22 Worship 10:30am	23 Rev Mark Returns	24 Al-Anon 7pm	25 Clean & Free 7pm	26 Happy Thanksgiving 	27	28
29 1st Sunday Advent Worship 10:30am	30					