

Trinity Times

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As a young boy I was often spending my free time playing with Legos. For either my birthday or for Christmas, I was given a set and I would spend countless hours building and taking apart. But, I never seemed to have enough to build what I wanted to build. When building an airplane, I didn't have any wings. When building a fire truck, I didn't have any wheels. When building city hall, I didn't have any roof. Needless to say, I was frustrated in my building endeavors to find that I never had enough Lego blocks to build what I wanted to, I was always needing more.

But while I was always looking for more Lego blocks to build what I wanted to build, I always had the perfect number of blocks to build what someone else suggested. I might have been wanting more wing blocks to build my airplane, but I had just enough to build a helicopter. I might have been wanting more wheels to build a fire truck, but I had just enough to build a cop car. I might have been wanting more roof blocks to build city hall, but I had just enough to build a gas station. What I noticed after a while of always needing more to build what I wanted to build, I always had enough to build what someone else had in mind. Instead of Legos being scarce, I already had an abundance of Legos.

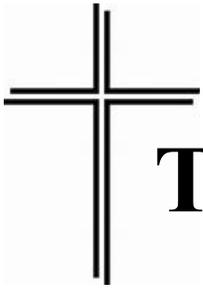
So too is it with us. We think there just isn't enough. Our lives just don't have enough time in them to do everything we need to do. Our lives just don't have enough resources to do everything we need to do. Our lives just don't have the energy to do everything we need to do. We need more, and we need to get it before the family next door gets it, because the world just might run out of it. There is only so much good stuff going around and before it runs out, I need to get as much of it as possible, so that I will not run out of it. We live as though everything good in this life is scarce and we had better get it first and store it up for tomorrow. But what if... What if we were not always lacking that something whatever it is, but what if we already had an abundance of it? What if we were never missing the Legos we needed to build an airplane because we were supposed to build a helicopter? Instead of things being scarce, what if God has already given us the abundance we need?

Many of today's churches are aging; meaning time, energy and strength are lacking. Many of today's churches are parents; meaning time, energy and strength are lacking. Many of today's church have other priorities; meaning time, energy and strength are lacking. But what if instead of not always lacking those things, what if God has already given us the abundance we need?

The disciples sure thought they didn't have enough when they said to Jesus a few loaves and fish are not going to feed five thousand men besides the women and children. The disciples thought that a year's wages still couldn't feed that many people and they surely didn't have a year's wages and wouldn't give it up if they did. But Jesus wasn't interested in what they didn't have, Jesus wasn't worried about scarcity, Jesus knew his Father and Jesus trusted that his Father already gave him everything he needed abundantly. So Jesus took what he did have and fed thousands of people. What they already had was more than enough to do what God wanted. Jesus didn't deal in scarcity, Jesus dealt with God's abundance.

What if we as Christians didn't deal in scarcity but instead dealt in abundance? What if instead of worrying about how we don't have people in the pews, or money in the checking account, or a leaky roof that we can't fix, what if we dealt in what we do have? Abundant gifts freely given of the Spirit of Jesus Christ to do the work of God, prepared for us, instead of the work we prepare for ourselves. What if instead of worrying about not being able to make an airplane with what we don't have, we instead build the helicopter with everything God has already abundantly given. Let us deal in God's abundance instead of the world's scarcity!

In Christ,
Rev. Mark



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A Note From Session

Sisters and Brothers,

Labor Day is nearing! How fast the time goes!

The beginning of September is the 4th anniversary of Rev. Mark leading Trinity. Thank you, Rev. Mark for all you do for us...the classes you teach, the meetings you guide, the worship you lead, and all you do to try to keep in touch with us through this trying time.

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.

Session would like to thank the Deacons for all they have done to keep in touch with our members.

As you know, life and church looks 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.

Mary Belding will be the Elder-on-Call for September.

Peace and health be with you,
Mary Belding, Clerk



Communion is served the first Sunday of each month during our worship service. Beginning Sunday September 6th from 1-2pm, Rev. Mark will be serving communion in the church parking 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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A Note From Scrip



Dear friends,

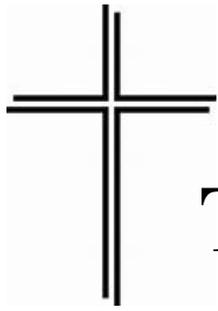
Scrip cards are available!

If you want Scrip cards, please call 964-6073, text 862-6786,
or e-mail mbelding237@gmail.com to place an order.

If we have the cards you want, we should be able to get them to you
quickly. If we have to order cards, it will take at least a week to receive
them.

Blessings and be well,
Mary Belding and Dee Fassett





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Property and Finance

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

Capital Improvement Fund Balance: \$8,888.83

We are so grateful to Mary Belding for keeping our landscaping watered. Thank you Mary! I would like to recognize our committee for all their hard work this past few years-we are so ever grateful to Norm Jepson, Terry Karvonen, Rich Fassett, Craig Reiter, Hobart Shiflet, Dorrene Turner, and Mark Mong, and we welcome Ken Vanyo.

Below is a list of updates from the Property and Finance committee:

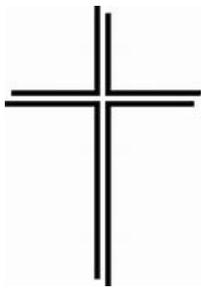
1. The forgiveness Loan provided to Trinity through the Paycheck Protection Program has been depleted. The necessary paperwork to satisfy the conditions of the loan have been submitted. After review, we will receive notification if the \$10,520.83 loan is 100% forgivable.
2. We recently received a \$263.00 check from the Bureau of Workers Compensation. This is a “true-up” reimbursement based on the BWC yearly premium and actual payroll.
3. The church continues to be open and operate during this difficult time. We appreciate everyone’s financial support to assist in meeting the financial needs of the church. Thank you so much.
4. The updates to the wiring in the kitchen area have been completed.
5. The cleaning company is in the final stages of stripping and waxing of our floors. Don’t they look great!

The Property and Finance committee would like to thank all who have continued supporting the church financially during these difficult times.

God is Good!

Beth Dougherty

Property & Finance Chair



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Community Outreach

Community Outreach is unable to host some of our "normal" events. For this reason we have decided to continue to collect items for the Faith Lutheran members generously donated 20 bags of various items over the past few months. So, why stop a good thing? Thank you for all your donations.

We are organizing foods to be served at Youth Opportunities while they are doing online schooling from their headquarters on Main Avenue. Anyone who would like to donate or assist, please let us know. They are always appreciative of homemade meals and baked goods.

We are looking into some "at home" projects for the future.

Stay safe and be well,
Pam

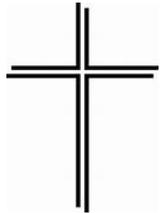


We are happy to have P02 Andre' Hanna back in the States after 14 months with the Navy in Barhain. Andre' is now stationed in Virginia. He is the son of Christina Bratzel, and grandson of Craig and Karen Reiter.

Wilma Weekley will be having a hip replacement September 1st.



Congratulations to Craig Reiter on his retirement from First Energy on September 3rd!



September 2020

Elder on Call: Mary Belding 964-6073
 Deacon on Call: Gail Frenz 964-9581
 Website www.trinityashtabula.org
 Email trinitypres04@gmail.com

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---------------------------|-----|--|---------------------------|-----|---------------------------|
| | | 1 | 2 Adult Study 10am Clean & Free 7pm | 3 Adult Study 7pm | 4 | 5 Parish Mtg. 10am |
| 6 Communion Worship 10:30am Drive-up Communion 1-2pm | 7 Labor Day | 8 | 9 Adult Study 10am Property & Finance Mtg. 6:30pm Clean & Free 7pm | 10 Adult Study 7pm | 11 | 12 |
| 13 2¢ A Meal Collection Worship 10:30am | 14 | 15 | 16 Adult Study 10am Community Outreach 6pm Session 7pm Clean & Free 7pm | 17 Adult Study 7pm | 18 | 19 |
| 20 Worship 10:30am | 21 MRC Mtg. 6:30pm | 22 | 23 Adult Study 10am Clean & Free 7pm | 24 Adult Study 7pm | 25 | 26 |
| 27 Worship 10:30am | 28 | 29 | 30 Adult Study 10am Clean & Free 7pm | | | |