

# Trinity Tower

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the  
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in His Hands

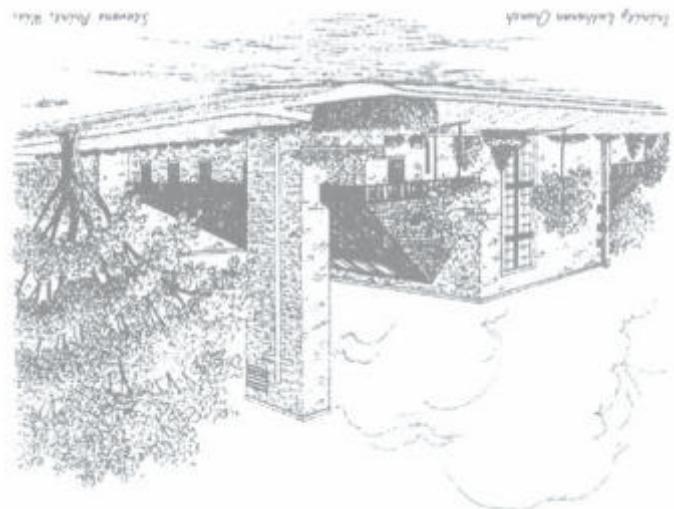


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## SEPTEMBER 2021



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## PASTOR CLAY'S COLUMN



### Returning With Joy

What a joy to begin restoring life as we once knew it. We could never have imagined that the pandemic would disrupt nearly all congregational services for a year and a half. At long last, this issue of the Tower signals that we are slowly returning to some kind of normalcy. As you know, we temporarily discontinued the Tower because all of the things we usually love to announce and advertise were cancelled.

Now, our calendar is being repopulated with ministry meetings and opportunities. We are worshiping indoors and are even attracting visitors, doing baptisms, and holding funerals and other special services in our sanctuary.

Returning With Joy is our fall stewardship theme. All through the pandemic, the faithful people of Trinity have kept their financial and spiritual commitments and we are deeply grateful. Now, as we look forward, we are indeed coming back in joyful expectation that our ministry will continue in new ways and thrive in our community. Thanks to all of you for your generous support and thanks in advance for all the ways that you will return with us to worship, witness, and service in our community.

Gratefully and Joyfully,  
~Pastor Clay



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CONGREGATION'S PRESIDENT

Dear Friends in Christ,

We have much to celebrate and be thankful for as we continue to fulfill Trinity's mission, even as we have learned to adapt to new ways of doing ministry over the last 18 months.

How fortunate we are to have staff capable of caring for our members, even at a distance, during the long period we were unable to meet in person. Phone calls were made, Zoom meetings held, cards, emails, and notes written, all as a means to let our members know God was with them even in times of physical and social distancing. We remained connected, supported, and cared for as members of a loving, vibrant congregation.

Through your generosity we have been able to continue and to strengthen our ministry. We completed the goals the stewardship committee set forth in the fall of 2020. We retained all our staff, and we were able to stay current on all our bills. We upgraded the technology in our sanctuary to enhance online worship. We replaced entry doors that serve as a sign of hospitality to the community and improve access to our church. We fulfilled our pledge to Crossways Camp Capital Campaign, completing it fully a year in advance of our pledged date. Our Trinity Learning Center provided, and continues to provide, quality day care for children in our community. Parents with jobs deemed "essential" relied on the Learning Center's competent staff during those many uncertain months. TLC is a blessing to those parents.

And right now, our congregational finances remain strong. All through the pandemic months, the people of Trinity have remained faithful in their support of our ministry. Because we have enough money in our checking and Vanguard accounts we don't anticipate the need to use our line of credit.

Your generosity made all this possible. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!

For a more detailed look at the state of our finances, please take a look at the information that follows from our congregational Treasurer, Sue Acaley.

Thanks, I look forward to continue our ministry with you.

Peace,

~Tina Peters, Congregation President

## TREASURER

Trinity's budget for 2020 was passed as a deficit budget. As a congregation we were anticipating a loss of just under \$34,000.00. However, with a forgiven payroll protection payment from the government and good stewardship, Trinity ended the year on a positive note, showing a \$63,666.81 surplus. That allowed us to finish some projects and pre-pay our \$20,000 pledge to Crossways Camping Ministries.

Looking to 2021, it appears that we will once again be looking at a deficit budget of about \$23,000.00. As with many entities, personnel and facilities costs make up the vast majority of the budget. Income is projected to be about \$17,000.00 higher than 2020. However, expenses are also projected to be \$6,000.00 higher than 2020.

The Trinity Learning Center & Preschool, under the leadership of Amy, had a trying year in 2020 with the center being closed due to COVID on a few occasions. (Each time the daycare is closed, there is lost revenue around \$20,000.00). Due to closures, the Learning Center ended the year with a deficit of about \$22,000.00. Amy is looking to 2021 to be a positive year for the daycare. With the steps she and her staff have taken they should have another great year.

As of July 31, 2021, Trinity has a checking account balance of \$38,907.73 – a savings account balance of \$68,678.17 – a VanGuard account balance of \$100,641.57. The checking account reflects monies received by congregational members less expenses paid for church and day care. The savings account reflects monies set aside for special projects. The VanGuard account reflects monies deposited for 2021 pre-paid pledges. Most years  $\frac{1}{4}$  of these monies are transferred quarterly to the checking account, however, as we have sufficient funds in the checking account at this point of time, no amounts have been transferred to date in 2021.

Treasurer's Report as of July 31, 2021

Trinity Lutheran Church

Total Income received YTD -	\$325,977.42
Total Expenses YTD -	\$293,654.31
Net Income YTD -	\$ 32,323.11

TLC Daycare

Total Income received YTD -	\$420,760.23
Total Expenses YTD -	\$419,697.50
Net Income YTD -	\$ 1,062.73

~Sue Acaley, Trinity Treasurer

## TRINITY QUILTMAKERS

Finally, after sixteen months of lockdown we are able to meet at the church to make quilts. We had two quilting days in July and our ladies were truly happy to be together again. The materials are piled high and ready to be made into quilts. The quilts you stitch and the kits you assemble bring comfort and joy to our neighbors in need around the globe. YOU make that joy possible.

The baby items are filling the tubs in the Quilting Room and we hope to assemble and pack Baby Care Kits soon. Thank you to everyone who has contributed baby items, whether you made them or bought them.



School Kits and Personal Care Kits are in high demand. Last year more than 70,000 Personal Care Kits were distributed to 13 countries. More countries are waiting to receive shipments. Children in some countries can only go to school if they have the materials a school kit provides. Items can be left at the church in the appropriate boxes for these projects. Thank you in advance for your contributions.

Quilting Days in September are Tuesday, September 14 and Thursday, September 23. LWR Quilts are highly regarded throughout the world because of their quality and consistency. Join us in the Chapel Area as we work together making quilts that bring comfort to the less fortunate.

~Lois Hagen

## Is It Time To Grow Deeper? Lay School Registration Now Open

Registration is open for the Lay School of Ministry of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin. The school meets monthly on Friday evenings and/or Saturday mornings in both Wausau and Appleton and offers courses to dive deeper in faith and knowledge of scripture and is a chance to worship, learn, and engage with people from all across our regional church. Taught by local pastors, synod staff, and seminary faculty, students can take classes a la carte, or commit to a two year certificate program. Classes begin September 17-18, 2021. To learn more, talk to your pastor or visit [www.ecswlayschool.org](http://www.ecswlayschool.org).

## GLOBAL LOCAL OUTREACH

During the month of September Mobile Pantry will be the recipient of our cash donations. At this time Mobile Pantry especially needs non-food items: personal care items, laundry items, and paper products. Your donations will be used to purchase them.



At present they need volunteers to pack the boxes with canned and fresh food items plus nonfood items as needed by each recipient. They also need people to deliver to the rural recipients on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. Contact Marcy Ferriter, the director, at 715/341-9922. Thanks for your donations and help.

~Janet Swiston

## DONATION OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND SPARE A DIME/LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING

Although the collection of school supplies for The Portage County United Way ended in mid August, the collection of monetary gifts and items for the Lutheran World Relief School Kits continues.

Items needed: boxes of 24 crayons, rulers with both centimeters and inches, pencil sharpeners, blunt scissors, No. 2 pencils, blue or black pens, 2 ½" erasers, notebooks (wide or college ruled). Notebooks are especially needed as four notebooks go in each school kit.

Please put your donated supplies in the designated tub outside the South entrance of the church.

The Spare a Dime/Loose change collection for this month will also go for purchasing supplies for the Lutheran World Relief School Kits. Make your checks out to Trinity Lutheran Church, with School Supplies on the memo line, and mail the check to Trinity Lutheran Church, or drop off your loose change or check in the offering basket on Sunday, or drop off the check in the mail slot in door #2 on the West side of the church. Donated monies will be used to purchase items needed for the LWR School Kits.

Thank you for helping children to have the tools they need to go to school and learn!

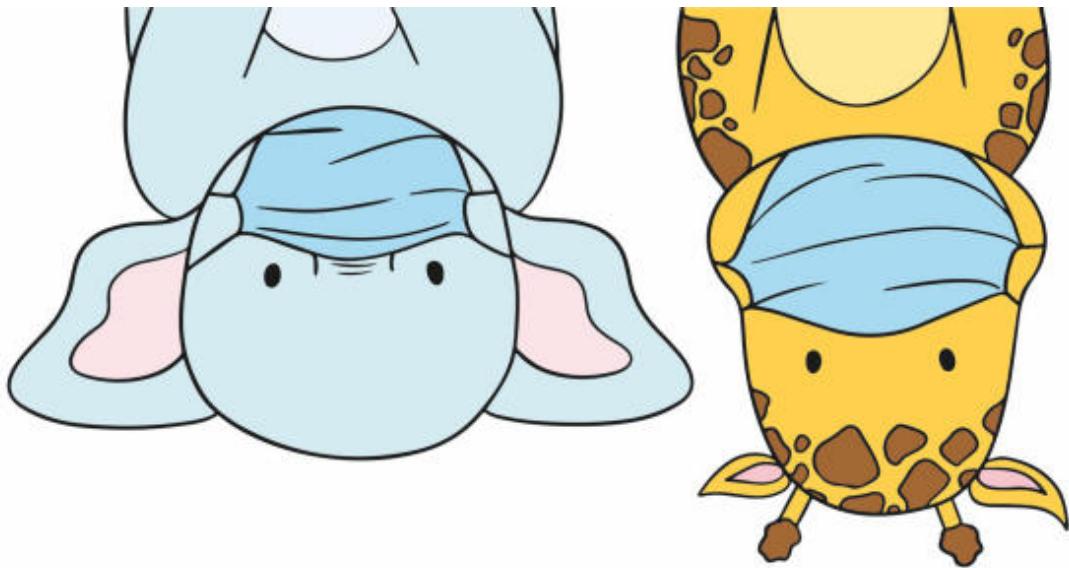
## THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

- ◆ The following donations were made during the month of July. Interfaith Food Pantry received \$180. This money will be used to purchase foods that IFP is short on; milk, for instance. It was also used to pay for higher utilities that keep the building cooler.
- ◆ Bethany Homes received \$166.28 in Loose Change donations. It will be used to purchase equipment to live stream church services across the campus.
- ◆ ELCA World Hunger received \$80. This will be used to provide gardening tools and supplies for farmers in Guinea. They can then grow crops that allow better food security and increase income.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity to provide for God's children here in Wisconsin and throughout the world.



An advertisement for Cub Scouts. It features a girl scout in the foreground with her mouth open as if cheering, and a boy scout in the background. The text "the sky's the limit AND THEN SOME" is written in large, stylized, yellow and white letters. At the bottom, there is a "SCOUT ME IN" logo with a wolf cub icon, and text encouraging people to join: "Ready for action that's out of this world? Join Cub Scouts for adventures that go above and beyond anything you've done before. JOIN A PACK TODAY AT BEASCOUT.ORG." Below this, smaller text reads: "Trinity offers Cub Scouting for boys and girls from Grades K - 5. For information contact: Bob Glennon at ScoutmasterT293@charter.net".



Dear Friends In Christ,

On Wednesday Portage County Health and Human Services issued a mask advisory which is in effect for 60 days. The rate of infection in Portage County, especially the Delta variant, is classified at a substantial level of transmission. The recommendation to wear masks in enclosed spaces is highly recommended. The recommendation applies to vaccinated individuals as well as unvaccinated individuals.

Trinity Lutheran Church will adhere to the mask advisory. People entering and using the building are highly encouraged to wear masks regardless of vaccination status and to maintain physical distancing. Any time you are in the building please wear a mask. This refers to our 10:45a.m. worship as well.

Our outdoor parking lot service will not be affected. Please join us at 9:00a.m., weather permitting, for our joyful services while we enjoy Pastor Clay's message, nature, music, and fellowship.

We have been happy to see each other again, to worship at our parking lot services and, more recently, a return to worship in the sanctuary. Our reopening task force has taken their job seriously by discussing the CDC guidelines, our Synod guidelines, and the Wisconsin Council of Churches. We've taken each step to reopening with care and consideration. Wednesday's announcement from Portage County Health and Human Services will require us to adapt, once again, to the changing health climate in our county.

The county vaccination rate of 48.4% needs to be at 70% to be mask-free. Please encourage anyone who is eligible and has not received the safe, effective, free vaccine to do so. Everyone needs to do their part to make this virus a thing of the past.

***Please mask up and stay healthy!! Do it for yourself, do it for those around you.***

~Tina Peters, Church Council President



**FROM OUR CHURCH RECORDS THROUGH THE  
MONTH OF JULY 2021**

	<b>12-MONTH BUDGET</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>
Envelope Offering	565,310.50	318,877.38
Loose Offering	5500.00	1,379.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	690.84
World Hunger	0.00	1,340.00
Seasonal Offering	10,750.00	3,646.25
Receipts (YTD)	541,242.66	325,977.42
Disbursements	565,310.50	293,654.31
Net (+/-)	(24,067.84)	32,323.11
Receipts (Month)		38,544.47
Disbursements		54,942.73
Net (+/-)		(16,398.26)
	<b>12/31/19</b>	<b>12/31/20</b>
Baptized Membership		1076      1064
Confirmed Membership		789      783



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## **CONTACT information**



If you need to update your contact information like address, email, phone number please contact the church office by mail, email at [trinity@trinitysp.com](mailto:trinity@trinitysp.com), or call 715-344-2869.

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

1410 Rogers Street • Stevens Point, WI 54481

**CHURCH OFFICE**

Phone.....	(715) 344-2869
Hours .....	Weekdays 8:00 am-4:00 pm
Answering Machine .....	(715) 344-2869
Fax.....	(715) 344-9123
Sunday Worship.....	8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Middle Hour.....	9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Worship .....	6:30 p.m.
All Committee Night .....	Tuesday, March 3 at 7:00 p.m.
Church Council.....	Monday, March 23 at 6:30 p.m.
Trinity Website .....	<a href="http://www.trinitysp.com">www.trinitysp.com</a>
Twitter .....	@TrinityInPoint

**CHURCH STAFF**

Clay Schmit, Senior Pastor .....	715-496-1957
	<a href="mailto:ClaySchmit@trinitysp.com">ClaySchmit@trinitysp.com</a>
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Katie Wroblewski, Principal Organist & Bell Choir .....	572-3492
Heidi Corcoran, Coordinator of Worship and Arts .....	592-3594
Matt Buchman, Conductor of Choirs & Praise Band....	498-3633
Barb Towey, Organist Emerita .....	341-1825
Amy Kurkowski, TLC&P Director.....	344-2227
East Central Synod website/e-mail.....	<a href="http://ecsw.org">ecsw.org</a>

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

Tina Peters, President.....	341-6570
Jeff Martin, Past President.....	341-9619
Edye Ray, Vice President .....	592-6607
Donna Watson, Secretary.....	341-7424
Sue Acaley, Treasurer .....	345-9935
Kristen Bean, Building & Grounds .....	340-5438
Jon Houtman, Christian Education .....	342-4491
Roberta Holthusen, Christian Life & Growth.....	341-0807
Megan Espe, Communication.....	830-9434
Diane Witte, Global/Local Outreach.....	295-0121
Jeff Martin, Personnel.....	341-9619
Joel Lemke, Stewardship .....	572-0259
Amy Kurkowski, TLC&P .....	344-2227
Diane Witte, Worship .....	295-0121
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