

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<

THE TRINITARIAN

All are welcome, all are loved

>>> PASTOR'S PEN

JOURNEY WITH THE DIVINE

"...a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' "

Luke 9: 34b-35

We have been contemplating Jesus' true nature during the past few weeks as we made our way through the season of Epiphany. This nature informs our ministry as a congregation and our lives in discipleship.

The first Sunday in March is Transfiguration Sunday - a time when we hear Jesus' identity affirmed and three apostles (in Luke, Jesus has already selected the 12 and refers to them as apostles) witness Jesus' glory on a mountaintop. It is a moment when they witness the divine.

It is a story that invites to consider when and where we have witnessed the divine in our journeys.

For some, it happens in an instant ... a flash of an epiphany ... and you are changed by your encounter with the divine. For others, it is a variety of moments that stack up, one upon the other, until you look at the whole of it and recognize it as the presence of the divine in your life.

Luke's story also invites us to look for God in the world ... those places and circumstances where the divine appears and makes its presence known. It could be during time out it nature or with the birth of a child. Luke also invites us to consider those places and events where you recognize that God's loving touch is most assuredly needed.

We were treated to a chilli dinner and coffee, following the 5-km Coldest Night of the Year walk on Feb. 22. We were blessed to have the opportunity to hear about the tremendous ministry of the Downtown Mission and the various challenges they face to assist the homeless and people at-risk. On the way out of the building, we came upon a young couple who were being brought into the Downtown Mission because they and their two dogs had no place to stay (it was clear that the two were the couple's family).

I've been thinking about the woman ever since that moment.

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UPCOMING

MARCH 4 - SHROVE SUPPER

ENJOY PANCAKES AND SAUSAGES IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL AS WE PREPARE FOR THE START OF THE LENTEN SEASON. THE SUPPER WILL TAKE PLACE FROM 5-7 P.M. FREE-WILL OFFERING TO SUPPORT TRINITY'S OUTREACH EFFORTS ACCEPTED. JOIN US AND BRING A FRIEND OR TWO.

MARCH 12 - APRIL 16 HOLDEN SERVICES

MIDWEEK SERVICES IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL DURING THE LENTEN SEASON. A SIMPLE MEAL PRECEDES THE SERVICES. THE MEAL BEGINS AT 5 P.M. AND THE SERVICE AT 6 P.M.

APRIL 12 - TRINITY ARTS CONCERT

THE WOODWARD STRING QUARTET WILL PERFORM AT TRINITY BEGINNING AT 4 P.M. TICKETS ARE \$20 FOR ADULTS AND \$10 FOR STUDENTS. PROCEEDS SUPPORT OUR MUSIC OUTREACH PROGRAM.



Four Trinity members were among the participants in the Coldest Night of the Year walk through the downtown. The event raised funds for the Downtown Mission. The Trinity Lutheran Trailblazers pledged to raise \$200 for the walk ... we raised \$345!!!! Thank you to our sponsors. As well, CNOY walk raised more than \$10,000 beyond its goal of \$120,000.

>>> PASTOR'S PEN

FROM PAGE 1

I am haunted by the look in her eyes. It was a look of desperation, shame and terror. Her blue eyes were framed by a wildness that I can't really describe. The closest I can come is that of a trapped or hunted animal. I wonder if this is the look others have as they face a night out on the street. Her partner stood behind her, looking down at the floor as he held the leash of the larger dog. He almost seemed broken by circumstance. I've been wondering about the Divine in that scene. Certainly, the ministry of the Downtown Mission, its staff and volunteers is Divinely inspired and true to the call of

discipleship. This was evident by the number of times we heard someone say "God bless you" during the evening. I wonder why we allow such circumstances to exist. Rather than rationalizing homelessness ("some people prefer to live on the streets" is the common trope), why aren't we advocating for the homeless with our collective voices and a full sense of commitment? Why aren't we pressing politicians to work to protect our most vulnerable members? What more can we do? As Trinity embarks on its redevelopment discussions, I pray that this is part of the conversation and that we allow the Divine to guide our actions and attune our ears to just listen.

FINANCE

Treasurer Update

Here is our financial statement as of January 31, 2025.

WFCU Accounts	Value	Previous Month	Comments
Chequing Account – Account 3	\$87,716.43	\$97,701.16	
Alto Savings – Account 13	\$33,893.02	\$33,885.82	
Alto Savings – Account 14	\$23,936.23	\$23,931.15	
Alto Savings – Account 15	\$5,868.03	\$5,867.28	This is the Memorial Fund
Term Deposit #10	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	Matures August 14, 2025
Bingo Account	\$4,066.77	\$4,065.74	
ELFEC Investment	\$50,000.00	\$54,810.27	EFT of \$4,810.27 on 02-06-2025
Total Funds	\$230,480.48	\$245,261.42	
Due Back to Savings	Value	Previous Month	Comments
Gift Cards	\$5,980.00	\$2,130.00	New \$5,000 order on 01-10-25
Total Funds	\$5,980.00	\$2,130.00	

The following are our restricted fund accounts:

Restricted Funds	Value	Previous Month	Comments
Memorial Fund	\$5,868.03	\$5,867.28	
Endowment Fund	\$30,705.21	\$30,705.21	
Congregational Growth	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00	
Youth	\$1,857.84	\$1,857.84	
Family Assist	\$865.00	\$915.00	
Music Ministry	\$325.00	\$325.00	
Total Funds	\$41,321.08	\$41,370.33	

The following is our year to date income-expense totals.

END OF January 2025	Budgeted		Actuals
INCOME TOTAL	\$132,206.00		\$7,156.85
EXPENSES TOTAL	\$164,670.68		\$12,925.73

END OF January 2024			Actuals
INCOME TOTAL			\$7,774.97

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Submitted by Bob Swiatoschik (Treasurer)

Outreach Update:

Saturday, April 12 – The Detroit Symphony String Quartet – This is our next music offering. It will start at 4 p.m. Tickets will again be \$20 for adults and \$10 for students.

Clothing Give Away – Our next event will be on Saturday, March 8, starting at 10 a.m. If you can help, please reach out to Dagmar.

Submitted by Bob ~~Swiatoschik~~ (Council Lead for Outreach)

Help Wanted

As discussed at our general meeting.

Our New Music Ministry (Trinity Musical Arts Series)

We need members of this committee to:

- Help sell tickets
- Use every means to contact people and foster this program
- Create the bulletin
- Create and distribute flyers
- Organize and host a reception after the concert
- Reach out to various agencies to determine bursaries/funds available to support this ministry
- Determine who and how can we help with the direct funds – musical instrument rentals, music book purchases, helping school bands, University scholarships, etc.

Redevelopment

We need members of this committee to:

- Complete the building assessment form
- Brainstorm and advertise for tenants for our space
- How can we use our space to its fullest
- Get an anchor tenant
- Reach out to Anglican Churches – possibilities of 2 becoming 1
- Reach out to the City of Windsor – can our space be part of the Lowe High School redevelopment?

»» COUNCIL

- Reach out to the Board of Education – can our space be used by Prince Edward School?
- Real estate investigation – is there any interest in our location (including the Parsonage)?
- Push for and be part of the “Mission, Vision, Value” Committee (MVV)
- The MVV commits to participation with a facilitator over a 4-8 month process
- The MVV creates the FUTURE DIRECTION
- Push for and be part of the “Community Roundtable”
- The Roundtable invites: The Mayor of Windsor, City Council members, social services, school trustees, the medical field, food insecurity, non-profit services → What can Trinity do??
- The Rountable will require 3 Trinity members at each unique table to listen and take notes → what are the urgent needs of our City; how do you prioritize these needs; what are the challenges to meet these needs; what needs to happen – how to work together
- Find a potential developer that can re-purchase our land that the Church, Fellowship Hall and Parsonage sit on

You are needed – Contact the Church indicating your interest to help:

trinitywlutheran@gmail.com

519-977-7787

Submitted by Bob Swiatoschik (Council Member)

»» HELPERS NEEDED

We're on the lookout for people to assist with Sunday services. We can use readers, ushers, liturgical assistants, counters, altar guilders and fellowship hosts and hostesses. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board next to the church office.

THE NEED IS GREAT, SO LET US SERVE

As we continue in this church year, in the week starting March 2, the Transfiguration of our Lord Sunday “signifies Jesus’ identity as the Son of God, his divinity and his role as a messenger from God” (from Google AI overview). Moses and Elijah’s presence signifies Jesus fulfillment of the Mosaic Law and the prophecies of the Hebrew Bible.

The disciples are given a vision of Jesus’ future glory in God’s kingdom.

While working at Trinity in our various outreach endeavours, I took the opportunity recently to explore another Outreach Support effort, namely the Coldest Night of the Year 5-km walk, along with Pastor Chris, held on February 22 at 5 p.m. Song also participated in the 2-km walk.

CNOY is nationwide, with walks in most major cities, with a myriad of groups participating and supporting the various Mission centres. The money raised (more than \$120,000) from this walk support the outreach and work done by our own Windsor Mission.

Before the walk, as we gathered outside the Mission, we were led in prayer to have a safe and successful walk in the community. Pastor Chris and I took part in the afterglow, with legs and feet feeling a bit stiff and frosty, were able to thaw out by enjoying a bowl of chili, some bread and a cup of coffee (or hot chocolate).

We were able to learn about the various services

offered, with the human element of support in the form of helpers, which are available to the homeless, the hungry, and the searching – all walks of life, and all ages.

I know that in everyday life, I have encountered people who are critical and judgmental of those helped by the Windsor Mission and critical of the Mission itself. As Christians, we are called to help our fellow men and women who help and support others in various ways in times of neglect, loss, or societal indifference.

So, I am calling on all of you as members or friends of Trinity Lutheran and as members of the body of Christ, to step up, join in, and make your presence known, participate in all our outreach efforts, as much as you can, participate actively in weekly worship as a liturgical assistant, as a reader, as an usher, as a choir member, or as an instrumentalist in the service.

We need you. We need your active participation to build this steadfast community of believers.

In our community the peoples’ need is great, not only the physical need (food and clothing), but also the need to find belonging in that spiritual home. So, please, share God’s love with those in need in your words and especially your actions.

Dagmar Raulin
Trinity Council Chair

»»» TRINITY 2025



Prior to the Annual Congregational Meeting, those in attendance were invited to be part of a new congregational picture. The picture will be used on Trinity’s website and on its social media platforms.