

Trinity Tidings



April 2021

From the Pastor's Pen

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Refuge



("Christ in the Storm on the Sea of Galilee" by Ludolf Backhuysen, 1695)

"Let all who take refuge in you rejoice. Let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, so that those who love your name may exult in you."

– Psalm 5:11

Early on, when the pandemic first started, folks would frequently say, "We're not all in the same boat, but we are all in the same storm." They were trying to remind us that people who were working on the frontline in hospitals, emergency services, post offices, and so on were having a very different experience than folks whose jobs allowed them to work from the relative comfort of home. People with no health insurance would fare very differently from those who had it. People with children had an entirely different set of challenges than those without. There are, of course, countless examples.

It's also been very different for folks in high-risk categories compared to those who have been working and moving about with some adjustments. We've all made really different decisions about how (or how much) we would change our lives and what level of precaution we need to take.

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Whereas Lucus is a healthy, low-risk individual, I am not. He has had a lot more flexibility to go out and make things happen than I have. Now that the vaccine has been made available to Oklahomans 16 and older, though, things are changing. The hope and the protection that the vaccine offers us is truly a blessing from God. Yet, after a year of living with the worry of the virus, the uncertainty about who might test positive next, or what might be safe to do...we are not unaffected.

Living with fear, whatever your personal level of risk, can wear at your soul. We spend so much time and energy thinking about how we're going to get to the next moment (us and our loved ones), that we often don't have a lot leftover for joy or hope or peace. Even taking the vaccine doesn't mean that the fear and worry vanish right away. We have to unlearn fear and relearn trust. This is our prayer as we build our immunity and greet the world again. We know that the vaccine doesn't mean that everything snaps right back to normal. Through our faith, we can reach out to the Lord, our Rock and our Refuge.

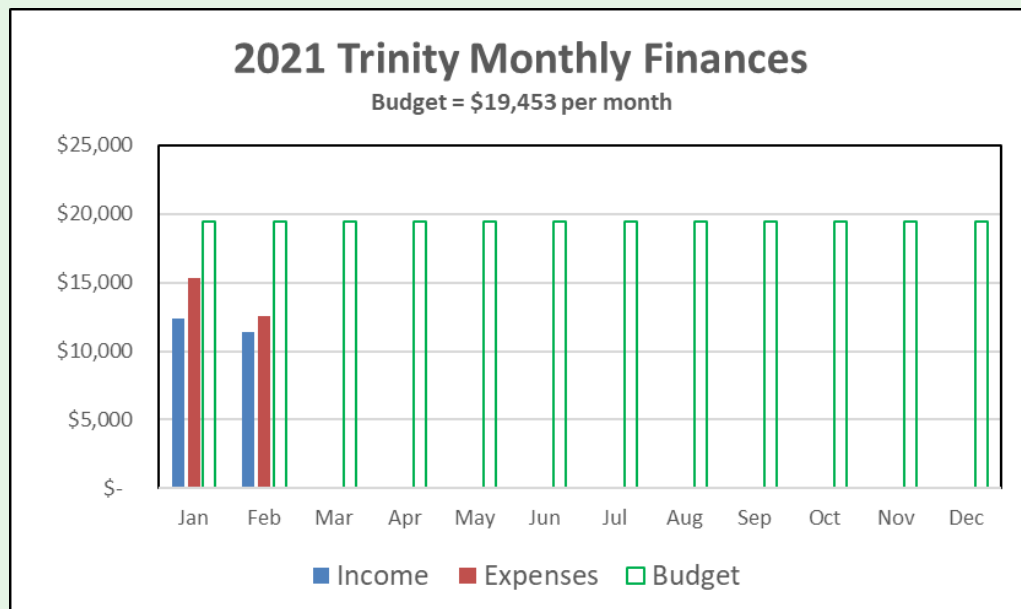
If you are one who is beginning to emerge from hibernation at home, remember that God is offering us this new light, this joyful opportunity to re-emerge and reconnect. With God's sheltering love and our own



Trinity Presbyterian Women meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 9:30 via Zoom. The PW from John Knox will join us this Wednesday, April 14th @ 9:45am. Rev. Elana will present Lesson 8: God Laments. Look for the meeting zoom link in your email.

Finance/Stewardship

grant kessler



2021	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Budget</u>
YTD	\$ 23,691	\$ 27,850	\$ 233,441

April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Maundy Thursday service at 6:30pm (in person/online)	2 Good Friday service at 12:00 pm (online)	3
4 Easter Sunday	5	6	7 Book Study at 11:00 am (zoom)	8	9	10
11 Church Bicycle Ride: 41st/ Riverside 12:00 pm	12	13	14 Presbyterian Women at 9:45 am (zoom) Book study at 11:00 am	15	16	17
18 Session meeting at 12:00 pm	19	20	21 Book study at 11:00 am (zoom)	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Primary source materials from Christian Mystics study at 11:00 am (zoom)	29	30	



Session Highlights

The Session met on Monday, March 15th. Here are some of the discussion highlights:

Sunday, April 11 - Bicycle Outing, weather permitting, following worship. We plan to go over to Riverside, and either ride our own bikes or rent e-bikes for ease of cycling. Let Pastor Lucas know if you're interested.

May 12-19 - Pastor Lucas & Pastor Elana on vacation

April 18 @ noon - Next Session meeting. In person and on zoom!

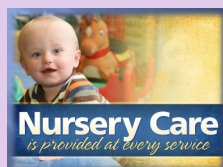
Congregational Care

Richard Spencer

Rides to Worship-

Congregational Care and Worship are coordinating rides for those in need. Please contact Richard Spencer or Liz Powell for details.

Donna Bridenstine will be in the nursery at 10:00 on Sunday mornings to care for our children during the worship service.



Worship

liz powell

COMMUNION

We will celebrate communion on Maundy Thursday, April 1st and on Easter Sunday, April 4th. Communion will be served in the sanctuary at both of these services. If you would like to have communion elements delivered to your home, please call the church office.

In recognition of the declining number of Covid-19 cases, the Session has approved the inclusion of up to 50 people in the sanctuary for worship; overflow seating has been arranged in Churchill Hall and the parlor.

The Scots Confession



CONFESSIONAL BANNERS

During the month of April the banner representing The Scots Confession will hang in the narthex. The Confessions are a foundation of our denomination. Three documents from the period of the Reformation are included in the Book of Confessions, each originating in a different country: Scotland, Germany, and Switzerland. These three centers of the Reformation remain significant in Reformed and Presbyterian thought to this day.

The Scots Confession was written at a turning point in the history of the Scottish nation. When the Queen Regent Mary of Guise died in her sleep in 1560, the Protestant nobility of Scotland was able to secure English recognition of Scottish sovereignty in the Treaty of Edinburgh. To the Scots, this favorable conclusion to the civil war with Mary's French-supported forces represented a providential deliverance.

The Scottish Parliament, having declared Scotland a Protestant nation, asked the clergy to frame a confession of faith. Six ministers, all named John, including John Knox, completed their work in four days. The Scots Confession was the first to be written in English and it uses the term kirk, which is a Scottish (former Northern English) term meaning "church". In 1560, the document was ratified by Parliament as "doctrine grounded upon the infallible Word of God."

The Scots Confession sets forth three marks of the true and faithful church: "the true preaching of the Word of God," "the right administration of the sacraments of Christ Jesus," and "ecclesiastical discipline ... whereby vice is repressed, and virtue nourished."

"Cleave, serve, worship, trust" are key words in this document. As a call to action in a turbulent time, the Scots Confession reflects a spirit of trust and a commitment to the God whose miraculous deliverance the Scots had experienced firsthand.

Building and Grounds nancy cain

SIGNS OF SPRING!



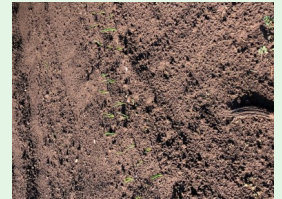
New Mulch!



Blooming Trees!



Onions anyone?



Mission News john clawson

Our Backpacks 4 Bixby program is operating like a well-oiled machine and we are delivering 61 food bags each week to four Bixby schools.

We started this Mission in 2009 with the goal of providing healthy breakfast and lunch items to help feed children in need over the weekend.

Thanks so much to our volunteers for signing up to purchase food, pack and deliver each week.

Christian Education/ Fellowship News



katie hanson/craig hanson

Easter is fast approaching!

The CE team wanted to let everyone know that we will not be having an Easter Egg Hunt this year. Instead, we have made Easter candy baskets for our youth and kids! These baskets will be hand delivered to your homes on April 2nd or 3rd. Please reach out to Katie Hanson (918-671-9910) if you have questions, or if you want to help deliver! We cannot wait to see how our youth and kids are doing!

In lieu of brunch this year, Fellowship will have a sweet treat available for pick-up after our Easter service. We look forward to seeing everyone!



April Lectionary Readings

Resurrection of the Lord/Easter—April 4th

Acts 10:34-43
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
John 20:1-18

2nd Sunday of Easter— April 11th

Acts 4:32-35
John 1:1-2;2
John 20:19-31

3rd Sunday of Easter— April 18th

Acts 3:12-19
John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

4th Sunday of Easter— April 25th

Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18



April

- Carol Gott.....4/1
- Michelle Buttress.....4/8
- Kaiden Haughey..... 4/15
- Sela Smith.....4/22
- Lois Rude.....4/26



Special Message

Special Message from the Carver family—

The Carver family want to say thank you to our Trinity church family for the sympathy, love and calls of support since our loss of Ron. Your prayers and kind words are very much appreciated in these tough times. Though Ron will be deeply missed by our family, we take comfort in knowing he is without pain and with his maker. Thank you.

Prayers for our Sister Synod of Livingstonia in Malawi-

Our thoughts and prayers are with the community of Malawi as they mourn the sudden tragic loss of a pastor.

TRINITY PHOTO ALBUM

Lent 2021



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