



TRINITY

C H U R C H

July Newsletter

Printed June 23, 2022

Reflections....

You've heard it said, "What a difference a year makes." I look at my grandchildren and it seems like a week makes a difference! They are always changing, growing, learning new things, exploring unfamiliar territory, and plunging into unique life experiences. Every week, month, year-you can see the difference and it is awe-inspiring.

I wonder how often we pause to consider how much our beloved Church (the people) and church (the physical building) have changed in the last five years. We had been in two separate buildings. Parents had to drive back and forth for Sunday School. There was limited space to build community and enjoy being together. Technology was quickly changing and our ministry was trying to keep pace to best share the gospel. We sold two buildings, raised resources, then built and moved into a new mission outpost. COVID came. What a difference five years has made.

Our ministry philosophy has transformed. We are focused on mission (reaching beyond ourselves) and personal evangelism (our "one"). Leadership decisions are less impacted by personal preference and more focused on reaching people who are not yet in a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Trinity Kids and Trinity Students have undergone major reconstruction. Connection Groups have been implemented to transform lives. Adults are coming forward to be baptized. New families are engaging in the life of the church because of what they find here. Our worship has evolved, while staying faithful to God and connecting with people seeking deeper meaning in life.

I am in awe of what we have done together as a congregation in these last five years. Trinity is making a difference and will continue to do so as we grow, learn new things, explore unfamiliar territory, and chart a course forward to plunge headlong (similar to my grandchildren) into what it means to be a congregation that is passionately connecting people to Christ.

What you may not realize, and to be perfectly honest, all of this has taken a toll on me personally. These have been difficult and challenging years. Elevated levels of stress as we have navigated through monumental changes. More hours have been spent at work than are healthy. Time away to recharge, refresh, and renew has been limited. Along with the challenges of guiding a church through significant transformation, there have been challenges in my personal life. Graciously, with the approval of Church council, I will be using my accumulated vacation time all in one shot. Much of the summer I will be in and out of town, but away from the Church. I ask for your understanding, support and prayers during this period.

We have an awesome staff at Trinity; all of the bases will be covered during my absence. Before school resumes, I will return to enter back into my work with renewed vision and personal vitality for the future.

Blessings as you also recharge this summer. God is with you. God is speaking to you. Let God guide you and lead you into a time of refreshment and renewal as well.

Your Pastor and Friend,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Dick". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned at the bottom of the letter.

July Prayer Guide

Praying for Wisdom and Discernment For God's Plan for Trinity Church

How is the Holy Spirit teaching and equipping Trinity Church to go and make disciples, and to disciple each other in 2023?

July 1-9 Prayer Points: Unity in the Trinity body of Christ/living and serving in one accord (Philippians 2)

- Community, state, and country (Psalm 33, July 4th weekend)
- Pastors
- Council
- Staff
- Congregation
- Building

July 10-16 Prayer Points: Leading our children to a saving relationship with Jesus and equipping them to go and be God's Light. (Ephesians 4:11-16)

- Little Lights
- Trinity Kids/Students Education
- Leaders/Teachers
- Parents
- Students
- Congregational call to volunteer

July 17-23 Prayer Points: Discipling one another (Colossians 3:12-17)

- Church Ministries>Little Miracles, The Raining Season, Prayer shawls, etc...
- Connection/Fellowship Groups
- Congregational call to join or lead church ministry/group

July 24-31 Prayer Points: GO!!! (Matthew 28:18-20)

- The Community
- Fellow believers in other churches
- Metro area school districts
- Police Departments/Fire and Rescue
- Hospitals/nursing homes

Suggested Prayer Format: A.C.T.S.

Adoration Confession Thanksgiving Supplication

Quiet your mind with 2 minutes of silence both before starting and to finish.

Keep this guide with you to help you pray unceasingly: print it, take it, share it.

Come to Trinity Church Chapel to pray Wednesdays from 11am-Noon

"Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do that the Father may be glorified in the Son." John 14:13

God Speaks

As you pray through the month of July, use this space to record what you hear God saying in answer to your prayers.

A series of horizontal blue lines providing space for writing.



Hey Trinity Moms and Dads! I am so excited to partner with you and your family to help your kids learn about Jesus and to become His disciples. I am busy preparing for the fall when we will BLAST OFF into God's word on August 14th and then join in the fun after the 10:30 service for our "Celebrate!" gathering. Make sure you come to Trinity Kids that morning and you'll retrieve your special prize at our "Celebrate!" event after church.

As we set the tone for the new school year, be on the lookout for our Trinity Kids Open House to learn more about our programming and events. It is my hope to bring Trinity Kids to life beyond summer programming and there are some events you won't want your family to miss!

If you have volunteered for Trinity Kids in the past, or are looking to begin your time as a volunteer, I would love the chance to meet with you. I've met with 17 of our really cool volunteers so far and look forward to hearing from you, too. **Sign up for a time to get to know me**, help craft the future of Trinity Kids, and evaluate where your gifts and passions might lead you through this next season as a Trinity Kids Volunteer.

Don't forget to continue to come and dive into our summer series in Trinity Kids throughout the summer! Every Sunday at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. through July 31st, kids will be learning about the fruit of the Spirit. Note for your calendar: Trinity Kids will not meet on August 7th.

Enjoy learning about Jesus with your kids this summer!

Kayla Florum
Children's and Family Minister

P.S. Keep your eyes peeled for the date and time of our don't-want-to-miss Open House. It's going to be an incredible event for families. You might even want to invite your neighbors and friends. More details to come.





TRINITY

STUDENTS

Grades 6-12

BOARD
GAME
THURSDAYS

EVERY THURSDAY AT TRINITY'S CAFE
9-11AM. BRING FRIENDS!

Enjoy BOARD GAMES - THEMED CAFE DRINKS

*Wednesdays: Open Gym at 5:30 p.m.
Bible Study - 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.*

SUMMER TRIPS ARE LIFE-CHANGING!

Middle School Adventure Trip - July 24-28

High School Mission Trip - July 24-31

Details at www.nextsteps.guide

Believe it or not, one of the key components of Matt's internship is the time he takes off to relax and go on vacation. Learning how to take a break and rest is a lesson most of us need to learn over and over again. It's so easy to get wrapped up in the busyness of everyday life, that we forget to come up for air, to take a break, rest, discover and appreciate the blessings of life. Often our vacations are so much work that we feel like we need a vacation when we get back home!

I hope you are able to take some time this summer for vacation that is truly restful - to go somewhere else and see new things, to do things differently than you usually do in the routine of everyday life. Even more, I hope, that along the way God will help you reset and recreate your mind, heart and soul in the direction of God's love for you.

Living in the direction of God's love, for us and through us for others, is what the journey of life is all about. As followers of Jesus it's the direction we walk, not just on vacation, but every day. Another way to say this is that Jesus is our true north, the one who always leads us in the direction of God's grace and goodness. Jesus is the direction of love and hope for our lives and for the world.

Unfortunately, it's all too easy to get distracted, traveling away from the direction of Jesus. We gravitate towards believing our purpose is to work for things that make us comfortable and happy, the ways that make us look good in the eyes of others, and the things that society tells us are important. Sometimes we see rest as a waste of time, something that keeps us from where we want to go.

Consider comparing the path of your life to the difference between following true north versus magnetic north. True north is a fixed point on the globe. Magnetic north is the direction that a compass needle points to as it aligns with the Earth's magnetic field. Which means that magnetic north moves. In fact, it shifts and changes over time in response to changes in the Earth's magnetic core. If you calibrate your compass to magnetic north instead of true north, you will inevitably end up far from where you want to go.

I hope that in your times of relaxation, rest and vacation this summer, you make a point of re-calibrating your life, your relationships, your prayers back in the direction of Jesus, our true north. It won't happen automatically, you need to do it with intention and frequency. Recalibrating in the direction of Jesus means consciously letting go of whatever distracts you from worshipping God and living God's love for you. It means celebrating God's grace in your life and living the love of God for others including your family, neighbors, friends and colleagues.

Learning to take a break may or may not be a hard lesson for you, but it is a faithful and good lesson to learn. May you find rest and peace this summer in the creative and life-giving presence of God so that you are inspired to continue your walk in the direction of Jesus with enthusiasm and joy. May God bless you every step of the way.

In Christ,

Pastor Ellen Stelzle, Matt Pearson's Intern Sponsor

www.nextsteps.guide

July 14-17
Pick your
adventure

Table in the
Wilderness
Near Laramie, WY



LAST CALL
MAN CAMP 2022

Conversations for women
IF:Tables | July 17 | 12-2 p.m.

2 hours, 4 questions, 6 women
Cutting through small talk
to build authentic relationships.

*Bring you lunch or join
our Jimmy John's order*

Full details

www.nextsteps.guide



AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Happy Birthday Trail Blazers (80+) Years

- 07/05 - Kathy Bokelman Zeeb
- 07/08 - Art Armbrust
- 07/08 - Chere Schroeder
- 07/19 - Elaine Schreiber
- 07/21 - Elvera Hietbrink

50+ Anniversaries

- 07/21/57 - Glenn & Marcella Koca

New Babies

- 06/14 - Jonah Michael Keogh to Adam and Sarah (Beck) Keogh

Baptized into Our Faith Family

- 06/26 - Brody Ray Wilson, son of Matt & Kelsey Wilson

Health and Healing

- Ann Wilt, Ruby Tschudin

Sympathies

- John and Anne Holmstrom on the loss of Anne's mom
- Jerry Damme and family on the loss of his daughter, Nikki

OUR VISION: A place to belong and become who God is calling us to be.

OUR MISSION: Connecting People to Christ

OUR STRATEGY: Love God | Grow Community | Serve Others

Stay up to date at all that's happening at Trinity Church

www.nextsteps.guide

TRINITY IS GENEROUS

Our Tithes and Offerings
Connect People to Christ!

GIVING IN MAY

Offering Entries = 489

of: Donors = 214 | New Donors = 4 | Recurring = 87

Source: Electronic Giving = 300 | Cash & Checks = 189

Total Gifts Received = \$128,938.32

General Fund: \$85,338.35

Go Vision Appeal Fund: \$41,195.94

All other giving*: \$2,404.03

*includes Papio Creek, Trinity Students, Little Lights, Trinity Kids, TK - Mary Kamara, Little Miracles, Food Pantry, Stephen Center & Memorials

MAY ENDING BALANCES

General Fund: \$ -8,182

Building Fund: \$ 112,200

Endowment*: \$ 370,763

GO Fund May 2021- April 2024

Received as of 06/24- \$551,686

46% of our \$1.2 million goal

from 1853 donations

1416 from pledges | 437 from non-pledged

General Fund 2022

Received as of 06/24 - \$402,478

42% of our \$878,584 goal

from 2225 donations

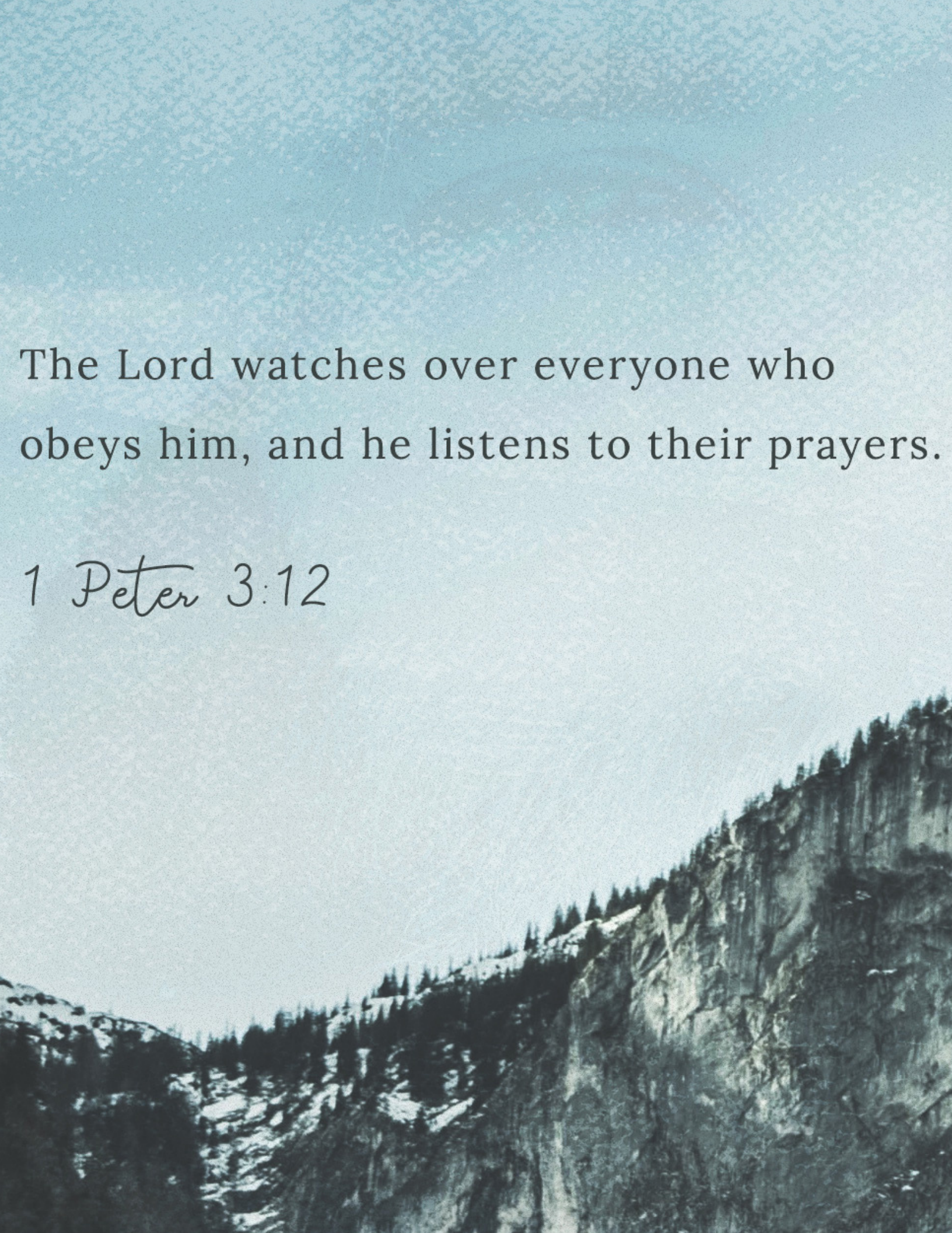
899 from pledges / 1326 from non-pledged

We have good work
to do as we follow
God's lead in 2022.



SCAN ME
to pledge to the
General Fund in 2022

God is doing great things.
Join Him in His work for us through Trinity Church
www.nextsteps.guide and click **GIVE**

A scenic view of a mountain valley. In the foreground, a river flows through a valley, surrounded by evergreen trees. The middle ground shows a steep, rocky mountain slope with patches of snow and more evergreen trees. The background features a clear, light blue sky. The overall scene is peaceful and majestic.

The Lord watches over everyone who obeys him, and he listens to their prayers.

1 Peter 3:12



Check-In Your Family



Give



Find and Join Small Groups



Manage Yours and Your Family's Profile

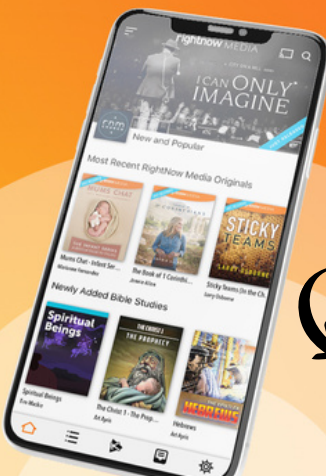


Register for Events

Web version of the app
trinitylifepapio.churchcenter.com/



Your gift from Trinity Church
rightnow MEDIA
More than 20,000 Christian resources



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