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Next Press Deadline
February 23, 2020

Words from Our Pastor

As I write this month's article for the Trinity Press, nearly all news sources are filled with headlines related to the Coronavirus. The virus emerged from Wuhan, China where people have been raising, marketing, and consuming various animals not typically used for food in other parts of the world. This tiny virus has had a major impact on the world – claiming many human lives and shaking up the global economy. We still don't know how much worse the situation will get before it gets better.



Jim Rauch
Interim Pastor

Of course, we feel compassion for the people who are suffering the effects of this outbreak. Followers of Jesus all over the world are offering prayers for deliverance for those who are afflicted. The news is also filled with many different ideas – ideas about how to stop the spread of the virus, ideas about how to prevent future outbreaks, ideas about how to protect our American population, and even ideas about how this illness is related to the political system in China. It is certainly part of our human nature to do everything in our power to reduce and eliminate diseases that cause illness and suffering for large numbers of people. As I have listened to the response of the global community, I have had a few thoughts as well about how this outbreak impacts our lives.

First, I am struck anew by our human inability to control many facets of life on earth. To be sure, since the rise of technology, the human race has gained huge amounts of control over life on planet Earth. Thermostats control the temperature of most of our homes. Jet aircraft give us the ability to travel distances unimaginable in times past. Modern monetary systems give us the ability to save assets over time and insure ourselves against catastrophic losses. Birth control methods give humans significant control over the birth of children. Medical treatments allow us to repair the human heart, adding decades to people's lives who previously had little hope for treatment. The list of areas where we have established control over human life is quite impressive. And yet along comes a tiny microscopic virus and people become very sick and many of them die. The travel industry begins shutting down thousands of scheduled airline flights. The price of oil drops precipitously and the Dow Jones Industrial Average plummets. People all over the world begin to worry – will this invisible virus come to my neighborhood? If nothing else, the Coronavirus is a reminder to us of our human frailty in spite of all of our impressive human achievements. It brings to my mind that melancholic stanza from one of Abraham Lincoln's favorite

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Words from Our Pastor

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poems, "Mortality" by William Knox (a descendent of the early Scottish & Presbyterian reformer John Knox).

*'Tis the wink of an eye -- 'tis the draught of a breath--
From the blossom of health to the paleness of death,
From the gilded saloon to the bier and the shroud:--
Oh! why should the spirit of mortal be proud?*

When we think about the power of a small virus to have such a huge impact on human life, it is an invitation to us, no matter what great things we might have achieved, to have a little humility in our orientation toward the universe.

A second thought that comes to my mind is the importance of trusting in the sovereignty of God. An outbreak of a life-threatening disease can make us feel as if we are completely at the mercy of random events. Our lack of control over tiny viruses can lead to anxiety and even to hysteria for various people – especially people who live under the thin illusion that we

have control over things like viruses. When it dawns on us that so much of life is outside our control, then fear can definitely set in. But what does our Christian faith offer in times like this? Many years ago, I committed to memory the opening paragraph of one of our Presbyterian Creeds, the Heidelberg Catechism. I have found that this simple paragraph brings me comfort, peace, and eternal security even when I face times of suffering or uncertainty about life:

Q: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A: That I belong – body and soul, in life and in death – not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures

me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

This clear summary of the Gospel helps keep me grounded in the hope I have in Christ as I face various challenges of life on earth. If you need to be more anchored in the gospel when fear is gripping people around you, I hope you have those tangible tools of the Christian faith to keep you in God's peace. You may have particular hymns, praise songs, or Bible verses that bring you the same sense of comfort, peace, and eternal security contained in this historic creed. If not, you may want to memorize this simple summary statement.

I'm glad to be part of the life of Trinity Church where every Sunday, through worship, singing, preaching, and connections to other followers of Jesus, we get encouragement and equipment for living – no matter what we face.

In Christ,

Interim Pastor Jim Rauch

Happy
VALENTINES
February 14th
Day!

What is Coming Down the Pike

We are looking forward to our 50th year celebration to be held on Sunday, May 17th.

The Open House and Jubilee will start at 2:00 p.m. This will be a wonderful opportunity to visit classrooms and tour the grounds. There will be a reception in Williams Hall for a meet-and-greet. A movie about the school will be shown and other events are planned.

Open Registration Begins

Open registration starts February 3rd for those who are not currently enrolled. Trinity Church members are afforded a 20 percent discount for family members. Classes are filling up and we want to make sure Trinity Church members can take advantage of this opportunity.

Dad's Chapel and Dance

On February 7th, Trinity Christian School (TCS) is hosting a Dad's Chapel at 9:00 a.m. in Williams Hall. That evening there will be a Father/Daughter Dance also held in Williams Hall at 6:30 p.m. This is always a very special event and well attended. The

girls from three- to 13-years-old, as well as their fathers, look forward to this day from year to year.

Vision Testing

We will host vision testing for preschool, kindergarten, and first grade on February 10th and 11th and is sponsored by the Elks Club. It is a wonderful community service that is offered every few years to TCS.

Special Events

During the week of February 17th, there are opportunities for anyone who would like to come and view or participate in the following special events in Williams Hall:

- Fifth grade will present a Living Museum: February 18th at 9:00 a.m.
- Fourth grade will present California mission projects: February 19th at 9:00 a.m.
- Seventh/Eighth grades will present Science Fair projects: February 21st beginning at 10:00 a.m. This is right after Chapel

which you are welcome to attend at 9:00 a.m.! (Any Friday)

Please come to any or all of the events and guests are welcome to join us!

The school will be closed on February 17th in honor of Presidents' Day.

Accreditation Report

Please pray for the submission of our accreditation report which will be sent via portal on February 14th. This will proceed a three-day visit by the accreditation team on March 29th through April 1st. We are seeking our fourth six-year dual accreditation status from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI).

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and not of yourself, It is a gift of God"

Ephesians 2:8

Sharon Axe
Principal

Jimmie Drummond
Principal



Trinity Christian School raises great readers!



Professor David Hillaker from San Diego Christian College answers students' questions about creation and evolution.

Life on the Trinity Church Hill

The new year has brought a flurry of activity to our church.

The laughter and sound of running feet greets us every day. Hearing the sounds of the school reminds me to pray for the more than 200 children that come here to learn and grow. Pray with me for this new generation – that they will grow in the knowledge of the love of their heavenly Father.

This month, you will notice the clean up of brush at the bottom of the parking lot. This was to comply with some county requirements and we did not have to pay for this expense.

Our Wednesday night potluck and Bible study resumes on February 12th. Beginning with a potluck at 5:30 p.m. and the study starting at 6:30 p.m., Pastor Jim Rauch will lead us through a fascinating study called “The Life and Ministry of the Messiah.” Ray Vander Laan, historian and teacher, helps us discover how the historical events during the life of Jesus impacted his ministry and life. With this knowledge, we can learn how this impacts our own lives and ministries.

As a staff, we would really appreciate your prayers. We have challenging times ahead of us – we need a pastor, our finances are limited, and our

buildings are getting older. The Trinity Church staff are some of the most committed people with whom I have ever worked. We want to glorify God in all we do.

My prayer for all of us is that we would continue to grow to be followers of Jesus. I pray that we would love and serve others as he did. He did not lord over us that he was God. Instead, he came and served the poor, broken, and the mentally and physically sick. May we have his heart.

Rebecca DeBrau

Communications Director

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619-465-3011 x107

CLIPPERS

**Saturday,
February 15**

Special Valentines Surprise

We meet at 12:45 p.m. for a fantastic 1:00 p.m. potluck luncheon. GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. Please contact Debbie Torres at 619-916-7803 for further information.

Presbyterian Women

Below is the February schedule for Presbyterian Women.

Remember - ALL women who attend Trinity Church are members.

February 4	9:30 a.m.	Board Meeting – Ward Center
February 11	The Gathering – Williams Hall	
	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study - lead by Linda Hensley
	11:00 a.m.	Opportunities to Share the Lord Through Sunshine Haven
		Dora Breninger
	12:00 p.m.	Lunch – Prep by Morning Circle
February 18	9:30 a.m.	Crafts • Ward Center
	6:30 p.m.	Evening Circle • Contact Barbara Wells or Debbie Torres for location
February 25	9:30 a.m.	Morning Circle • Ward Center
February 29	9:30 a.m.	PW Sewing/Quilting • Ward Center

"The Lord desires to give us victory in the battles we face. We are called to follow Christ for a purpose; to trust Him to do the impossible. He can and will intervene. Our life is in His hands."
Julie Rayburn, "Be Still and Know"

Welcome to February, Trinity Church Family! I hope you all had a chance to review the financial report for 2019. If you have, you already know that we are projecting a budget shortfall for this year of over \$24,000.00. If you are a follower of Christ, you know there is nothing too large or small to escape His notice, as the quote above says "to trust Him to do the impossible." Is it impossible for us to meet our

budget projection for 2020 on our own? Yes it is. Is it impossible for God? No it's not. Trinity Church is a church family that believes in the power of prayer, and we are trusting God for BIG things right now because nothing is too great for God. Keep that in mind as we start this year.

If you did not receive your 2019 annual report and you would like an electronic or hard copy, please call the church office to let us know.

I will close with this: *"God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."* John 4:24 NIV. Will you worship in truth?

Rebecca Casey
Financial Administrator
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	December 2019 Final	Year to Date 2019 (As of 12/31/19)	January 2020 (As of 01/30/2020)
BUDGETED INCOME	\$ 31,383.63	\$ 376,603.56	\$ 29,874.64
ACTUAL INCOME	\$ 44,143.36	\$ 372,893.68	\$ 27,179.25
DIFFERENCE	\$ 12,759.73	– \$ 3,709.88	– \$ 2,695.39
CURRENT EXPENSE	\$ 39,403.78	\$ 406,647.83	\$ 37,080.75
INCOME – EXPENSE	\$ 4,739.58	– \$ 33,754.15	– \$ 9,901.50

Trinity Staff

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BUILDING COMMUNITY BEGINS FEB. 12TH

THE LIFE & MINISTRY OF THE

MESSIAH



Our Building Community Wednesday Night Potluck and Study is for eight weeks, beginning February 12, 2020. Pastor Jim Rauch will be leading us.

In Life and Ministry of the Messiah, volume 3 of the “Faith Lessons” series, historian and teacher Ray Vander Laan illustrates how Jesus’ call to follow him turned the world upside down. Discover how the events of Jesus’ day impacted his life and ministry - and how it affects yours today.

We will meet at 5:30 p.m. for our potluck dinner. At 6:15 p.m., we will have a brief time of worship and our study will be from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

3902 Kenwood Dr.
Spring Valley, CA 91977

