



A Two-year Initiative for the Mission & Future of Trinity Lutheran Church & Schools

*“Like an oak I spread out my branches, magnificent and graceful. Like a grapevine I put out lovely shoots; my blossoms give way to rich and glorious fruit.”*

**Sirach 24:16-17**



**Trinity Lutheran  
Church & Schools**  
building. belonging. becoming.



**This makes us Christ's ambassadors, as though  
God were making the appeal directly through us.**

*2 Corinthians 5:20 (Inclusive Bible)*

## Dear Siblings in Christ,

Almost four years ago Trinity Lutheran Church and Schools (TLCS) embarked on a new missional adventure. We recommitted ourselves to faithfully respond to God's call with openness to the work of the Spirit: to be the church that God needs.

The last two years, however, have been filled with changes and challenges which range from the blessing and joy of calling a second pastor, to learning to be church in a pandemic. Yet, the Spirit has continued to work in and through the congregation to be a blessing for many people. God's faithfulness and generosity have led us forward to live out God's mission: to be a community of faith which joins God's mission as one to nurture, love, and serve all people.

In order to live out God's mission, however, we must address two crucial aspects of mission and ministry: 1) funding delayed and much needed roof and building repairs, and 2) growing our Mission Budget Funding (aka the 'General Fund') to foster a sustainable ministry of lived generosity for TLCS as a partner in the Lynnwood community—and beyond!

Now is the time to embody God's generosity by living with open hands. This campaign is about more than fixing a roof and balancing a budget. It is about living out a leap of faith that moves us to embody sacrificial and joyful generosity. It is a faith that nurtures us and helps us to build up a community that sees the larger mission that God has for this congregation. This leap of faith means being open to the greater and new things that God is doing in and through each one of us, and through TLCS' ministry, to branch out from who we were, and grow into the people God calls us to be.

As you read through this booklet, you will discover ways all of us can get involved to make this vision a reality.

Thanks be to God for you, and thank you for joining in this generosity initiative as we all **Build Up, Branch Out, and Live Generously.**

In Christ,



**Hector Garfias-Toledo**  
Lead Pastor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hector Garfias-Toledo".



**Jenna Bergeson**  
Associate Pastor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Jenna".

# Trinity's History

It isn't easy to feature such a long, rich history with so many significant dates and countless events and ministries. Through all the changes, cherished traditions and faith have kept us grounded, renewed, and committed to God's vision. Our 81-year history has been shaped by God's grace, calling, and the hope we re-affirm year after year.

Second and third buildings built to accommodate the rapidly growing congregation

Trinity Preschool opens its doors

1946-58

1980

1941

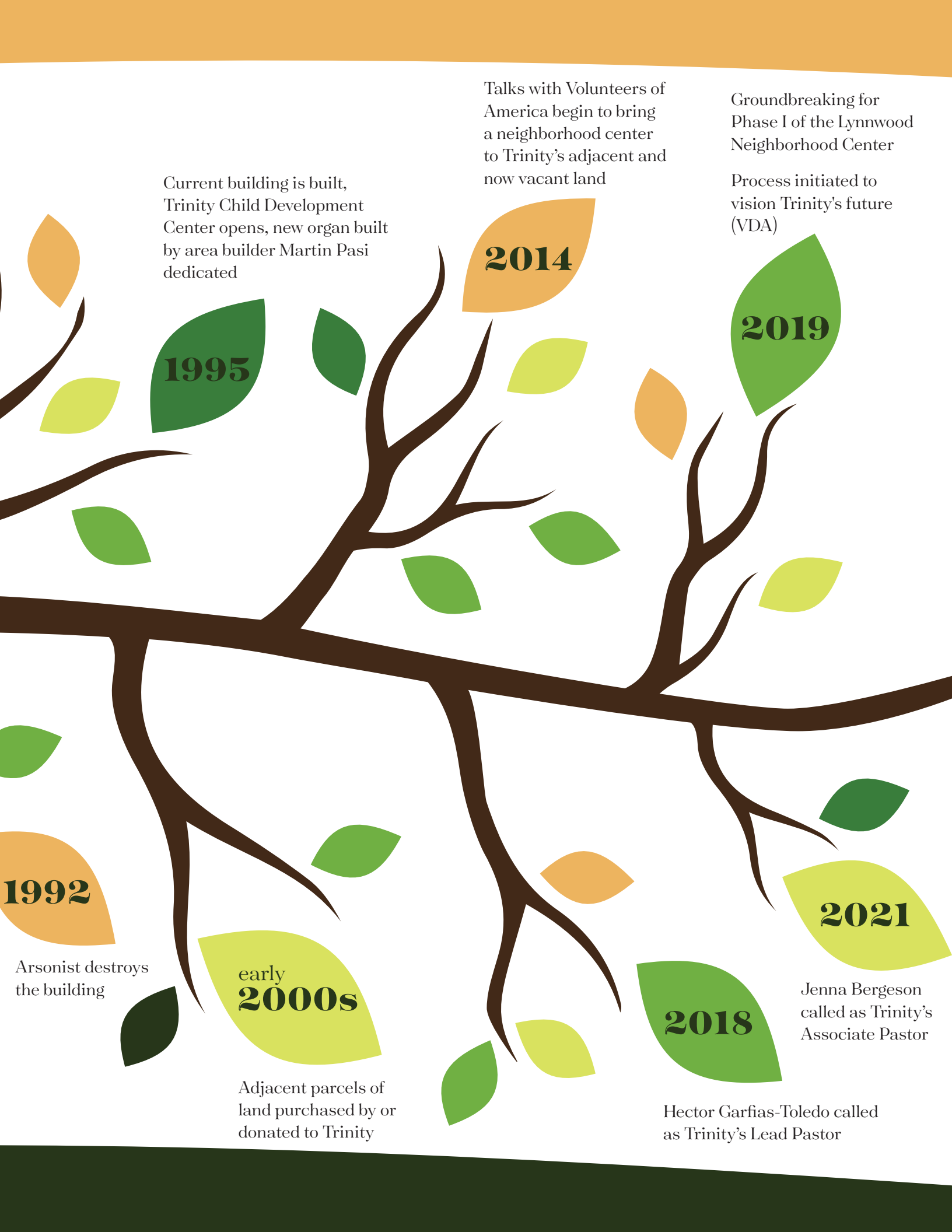
1945

1971

Articles of Incorporation signed and land is purchased at present day Hwy 99 & 196th

First worship held in newly constructed church building, Rev. Tom Collins called as the first pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church

First organ installed, built by the Walker Orelbau company out of Germany



Current building is built, Trinity Child Development Center opens, new organ built by area builder Martin Pasi dedicated

**1995**

Talks with Volunteers of America begin to bring a neighborhood center to Trinity's adjacent and now vacant land

**2014**

Groundbreaking for Phase I of the Lynnwood Neighborhood Center

Process initiated to vision Trinity's future (VDA)

**2019**

**1992**

Arsonist destroys the building

early **2000s**

Adjacent parcels of land purchased by or donated to Trinity

**2018**

Hector Garfias-Toledo called as Trinity's Lead Pastor

**2021**

Jenna Bergeson called as Trinity's Associate Pastor

# Trinity Today

Hybrid worshipping community with people participating both in person and online each week, providing opportunities for adults and children alike to participate in worship

---

Active youth program that meets teens where they are, shepherding them through these formative years

---

Two schools—Trinity Preschool and the Child Development Center—that provide safe, high quality education rooted in Christian ideals

---

Imminent construction of the Lynnwood Neighborhood Center on Trinity's vacant land will provide boundless opportunities to further connect with the community at large

---

Sharing our space with outside groups such as a Korean Presbyterian Church, Girl Scouts, Muslim basketball team, various music studios and ensembles, community events in partnership with the City of Lynnwood, and more

---

Active mission-focused ministries such as Neighbors in Need, Esperanza, and Living Water that provide direct service both locally and globally





**Let us speak the truth in love, and grow  
to the full maturity of Christ, the head.**

*Ephesians 4:15 (Inclusive Bible)*

## **Trinity's Focus**

Building up and joining in God's mission as one  
to nurture, love and serve all.

## **Trinity's Values**

Christ-inspired service in our community

Inclusion of all people

Impactful relationships with one another  
that provide support for life's journey

Faith-based communal experience  
of worshiping and learning together

Multi-generational ministry relevant to all ages





Build Up, Branch Out is a two-year generosity initiative of Trinity Lutheran Church & Schools to fund delayed and much-needed roof and building repairs, and grow the Mission Budget Funding\* to foster a sustainable future of lived generosity for TLCS as a partner in the Lynnwood community—and beyond!



This initiative, and its two components, directly align with our shared vision and values, and will allow us to branch out into God's preferred future for the people and ministries of TLCS.

\*"General Fund"

## **Build Up for the Community...**

The TLCS building itself is an instrument used to proclaim in word and in action the good news of reconciliation, beauty, justice, and wholeness to all people. God has entrusted it to us so that it can be a beacon of life and hope in the community. We must respond in kind to this calling by maintaining this 27-year-old facility and ensuring it is safe and secure for many years to come.

The Lynnwood community is expected to grow and change dramatically over the next several years, and Trinity is poised at the crossroads—the busiest intersection in Snohomish County—in close proximity to transit, with new housing developments popping up all around us every day. *Now is the time to grow and strengthen our Mission Budget Funding ("General Fund") through sustainable generosity in order to serve this growing population—both as a spiritual home and through high-quality child education and care.*

### **...Branch Out into the Community**

## **Build Up for the Next Generation...**

For over 80 years, Trinity has emphasized the importance of building a strong foundation of Christian education for the next generations, at times welcoming over 1000 children served by 125 teachers! This commitment to children was also seen with the opening of Trinity Preschool in 1980 and the Child Development Center in 1995, which serve hundreds of children in the community each year, providing safe, welcoming, and Christ-inspired education and childcare.

By addressing and funding much-needed roof and building repairs, we can confidently provide a safe space for another 80+ years of quality spiritual and educational opportunities for the ever-changing needs of the Lynnwood community. With our commitment to grow the TLCS Mission Budget Funding—and foster a culture of sustainable and lived generosity—we can equip TLCS staff and leadership with the resources and security to branch out to the next generation.

### **...Branch Out to the Next Generation**

## **Build Up in Christ...**

Christ is at the heart of all we do at TLCS: in worship, prayer, study, learning, and service. But in order to faithfully “live our lives in Christ,” we must build up both our physical space—through roof and building repairs—and our Mission Budget Funding—through a culture of sustained generosity.

As a result of this shared challenge, we will be able to confidently respond to Christ’s calling to “go and make disciples” (Matthew 28:19), branching out from this space into the wider community, responding and adapting to its ever-changing needs.

### **...Branch Out with Christ**



# Primary Goal

## 100% Prayerful Engagement

Everyone who considers TLCS their church home is asked to engage with this initiative by joining together to pray, commit, grow, and give generously.

# Secondary Goal

## \$4.2 Million

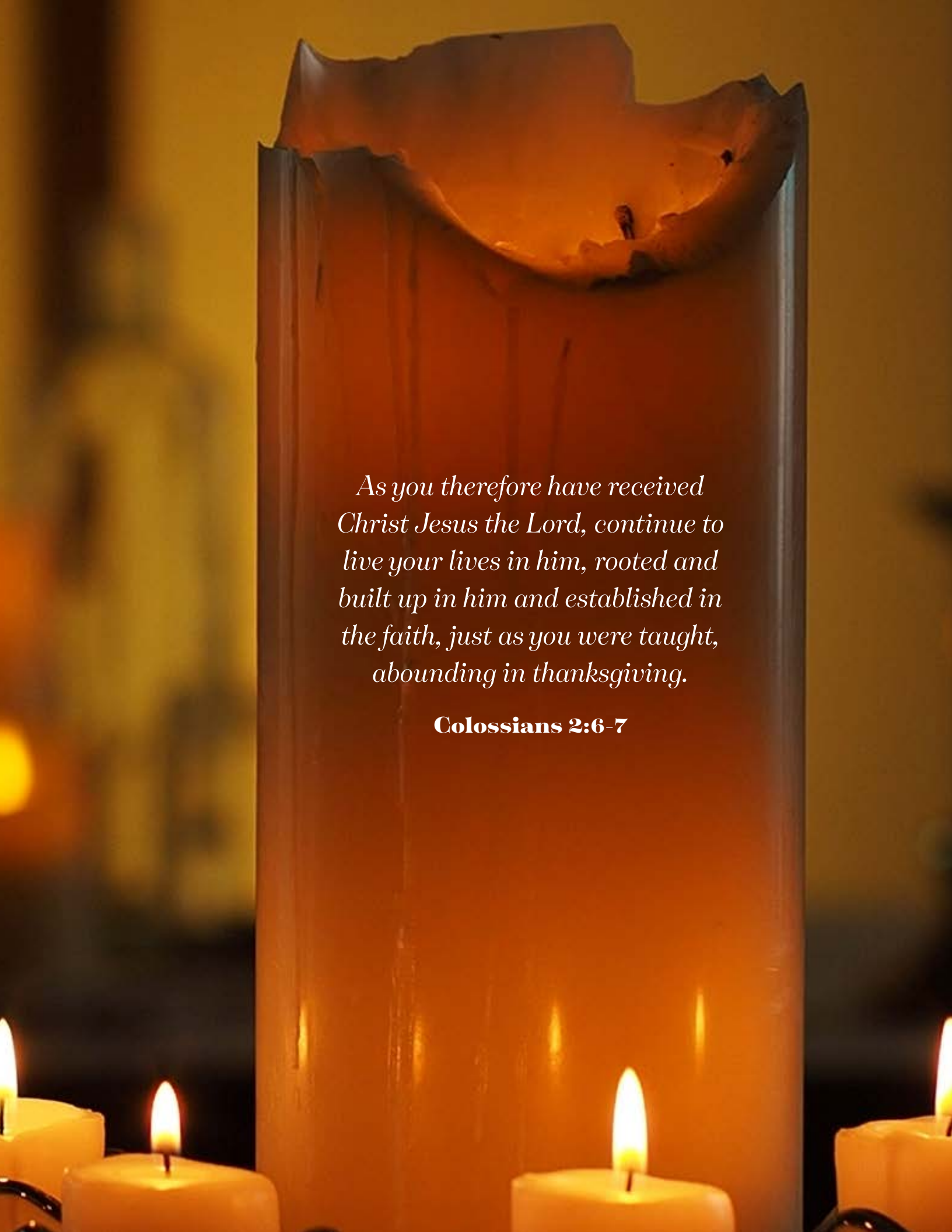
- Roof & Building Repairs = \$1.7 Million
- Mission Budget Funding (2 Years) = \$2.5 Million

*Mission Budget Funding is Trinity's 'General Fund,' and the goal represents a modest increase in projected giving for both 2023 & 2024, which will allow us to invest more in ministries that touch the heart of God and impact the community.*

Giving Initiative Total = \$4.2 Million

# Benevolence Increase

Trinity currently sends 6% of its annual income to the Northwest Washington Synod as Mission Support. The ELCA recommends that congregations 'tithe' or give 10% away as benevolence. Over the next two years, as part of this initiative, council and leadership propose to increase that Synod Mission Support by 1% each year, and provide an additional 1% in 2023 and 2% in 2024 to support one or more local organizations. By fostering a culture of sustainable generosity at Trinity, we'll be able to reach that goal of 10% benevolent giving, embodying God's calling to live generously.



*As you therefore have received  
Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to  
live your lives in him, rooted and  
built up in him and established in  
the faith, just as you were taught,  
abounding in thanksgiving.*

**Colossians 2:6-7**

# How Will You Respond?

## 1. Pray

that God will multiply our efforts to live out our generosity such that we meet our goal for roof and building repairs and expanded Mission Budget Funding.

## 2. Commit

to taking steps forward in your generosity and contributing to the goal of 100% prayerful engagement in the Build Up, Branch Out initiative.

## 3. Grow

by participating in the Build Up, Branch Out **worship series**—October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30—and setting aside time each day to follow the **daily devotions** found in later pages.

## 4. Give

in a way that changes you. Every person who calls TLCS home is asked to prayerfully make a two year commitment to this initiative and fill out a commitment card between now and October 30.

**Commitment Card**

**Build Up, Branch Out**  
generosity lived

"Like an oak I spread out my branches, magnificent and graceful. Like a grapevine I put out lovely shoots; my blossoms give way to rich and glorious fruit."  
Sirach 24:16-17

Trinity Lutheran Church & Schools  
Lutheran Learning Community

**As You Pray:**

- 1. Ask**  
God's spirit to guide your giving as you engage in this initiative to fund roof and building repairs and create a sustainable future of Lived Generosity at Trinity.
- 2. Pray**  
about what a sacrificial gift could look like for you and your household.
- 3. Thank**  
and praise God for the abundance seen in your life, and for the gift of our beautiful, welcoming community.

**Commitment Sunday | October 30**

**Build Up, Branch Out: Generosity Lived**

Please calculate using this worksheet:

What I/We Normally Give in One Year to Trinity	
My Our Expanded Generosity to Trinity	x2 =
2 Year Commitment to Mission Fund (general fund)	+
My Our Gift to Capital Project	=
My Our Two Year Commitment to "Build Up, Branch Out: Generosity Lived"	

I/we plan to give:  weekly  monthly  annually  one time gift (circle one)

**Contact Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

You may think your gifts do not matter when compared to our total goal, but every gift matters to God. It's not about the amount but what that amount means to you. Use this chart to see how your commitment can add up over two years.



# \$4,200,000 Goal

Two-year Gift Chart

Gifts Needed	2-Year Gift of	Annual Gift of	Monthly Gift of	Weekly Gift of	Cumulative Total
1	<b>\$1,200,000</b>	\$600,000	\$50,000	\$12,500	\$1,200,000
1	<b>\$500,000</b>	\$250,000	\$20,833	\$5,208	\$1,700,000
1	<b>\$250,000</b>	\$125,000	\$10,417	\$2,404	\$1,950,000
3	<b>\$150,000</b>	\$75,000	\$6,250	\$1,442	\$2,400,000
7	<b>\$75,000</b>	\$37,500	\$3,125	\$721	\$2,925,000
9	<b>\$40,000</b>	\$20,000	\$1,667	\$385	\$3,285,000
13	<b>\$20,000</b>	\$10,000	\$833	\$192	\$3,545,000
17	<b>\$10,000</b>	\$5,000	\$417	\$96	\$3,715,000
26	<b>\$5,000</b>	\$2,500	\$208	\$48	\$3,845,000
38	<b>\$2,500</b>	\$1,250	\$104	\$24	\$3,940,000
58	<b>\$1,250</b>	\$625	\$52	\$12	\$4,012,500
Many	<b>less than \$1,250</b>	less than \$625	less than \$52	less than \$12	
<b>Total Gift Goal</b>					<b>\$4,200,000</b>

# Lived Generosity

We have all received grace upon grace through God's love in Jesus Christ. "Build Up, Branch Out" invites us all to give in response to God's grace, not out of guilt or compulsion, but as an act of worship and an active part of everyday life. God pours freely into our lives, and invites us to open our hands and hearts, giving freely in ways that both challenge and surprise us. We are generosity lived.

As Jesus tells us in Matthew 10:8 – **"Freely you have received; freely give."**

And again we are reminded in 1 Peter 4:10 – **"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."**

While our faith challenges us to give freely, we live in a culture that teaches us to grip tightly to our possessions. Giving as an act of worship often invites us to give up something in one area so we can give more of ourselves in another area, and leads to a life of generosity lived.



Three keys to this are:

**1. Reassess lifestyle**

**2. Reassess priorities**

**3. Reallocate resources**





# Creative Ways to Grow in Your Generosity

Many of God's people have been amazed at their ability to give more generously to their church than they ever imagined. The following steps may help you do this:

## Practice Priority Budgeting

Consider rearranging priorities to give up something in your current budget in order to give more to God's work in this campaign. What could you sacrifice to free up resources to Build Up and Branch Out?

## Redirect Present Expenditures

Often people have significant short-term expenditures for special needs. Perhaps you will finish paying off a college loan halfway through next year, or finish making car or home loan payments. Could you redirect these funds to God's mission at TLCS?

## Increased Giving with Increased Income

Some people receive periodic increases in salary or bonuses. The temptation for many of us is to increase our lifestyle to fit the higher income. Consider instead committing the full amount of salary increases to God's purposes through the Build Up, Branch Out initiative.

## Give Creatively from Stored Resources

A young man decided that two collectors' baseball cards worth over \$20,000 he had been holding for a number of years would be an appropriate and meaningful sacrifice. Some families save money over a period of years for a special project. One couple had saved \$80,000 to build a lake cabin; when their church entered a generosity initiative, they decided the needs of the church were greater than their need for a second home.

## Commit Unexpected Cash

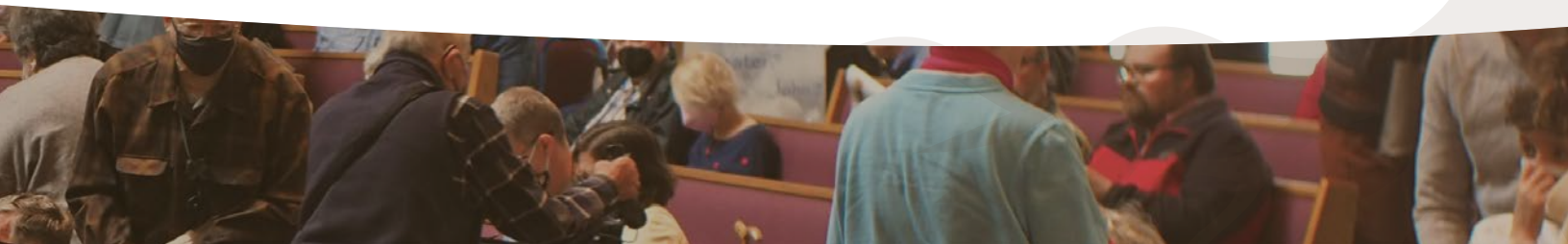
Often people pray for God to show them a way they can give beyond what they can presently see or afford. Sometimes the answers come unexpectedly. A couple had been praying for weeks about their commitment to their church's campaign. Much to their surprise, they received an inheritance of several thousand dollars. They gave the entire amount to their church as part of their commitment.

## Sacrifice Extra Time

Some people have extra time they can use in a part-time job to be able to give more to the church. One individual decided to put off retirement by one year so that he could give the extra year of income to his church for their campaign.

## Donate Appreciated Assets

Gifts of appreciated assets (often investment securities or real estate) can be very advantageous to both the giver and the church.



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **What is “Build Up, Branch Out: Generosity Lived”?**

A two-year generosity initiative of Trinity Lutheran Church & Schools to fund delayed and much-needed roof and building repairs, and grow the Mission Budget Funding (“General Fund”) to foster a sustainable future of lived generosity for TLCS as a partner in the Lynnwood community—and beyond!

## **What are the financial goals for this initiative?**

Our campaign goal is \$4,200,000 and consists of \$1.7M in roof/building repairs and \$2.5M in Mission Budget Funding (the “general” or “operating” fund) for two years.

## **What is the timeline for “Build Up, Branch Out?” What are the key dates?**

The initiative kicks off on Sunday, October 2, 2022 and continues each Sunday in October. It culminates on Commitment Sunday on October 30, as we celebrate the Reformation and our Lutheran Heritage.

## **What if I need to adjust my commitment in the future due to unforeseen circumstances?**

You may adjust your contribution level at any time by contacting our Administrator, Don Boelter.

## **Why are we using Commitment Cards—can’t this be just between “me and God”?**

We make promises when something matters deeply to us. We sign contracts for cell phones, lease agreements, and marriage certificates as a way of stating our intentions. Commitment Cards also help our church leaders to plan wisely and well. Together let’s make commitments to what God will do in and through Trinity Lutheran Church & Schools in 2023-2024.



### **How do I make my commitment? Is it confidential?**

You will be given a Commitment Card on which you can indicate your intent for giving. Your card will be kept confidential (an envelope will be provided to ensure so) and collected during the initiative.

### **How long will I have to fulfill my commitment? When do I start giving?**

“Build Up, Branch Out” is a two-year initiative. Giving toward your commitment begins in November 2022 and extends through December 2024, though you can always begin giving at your new level anytime!

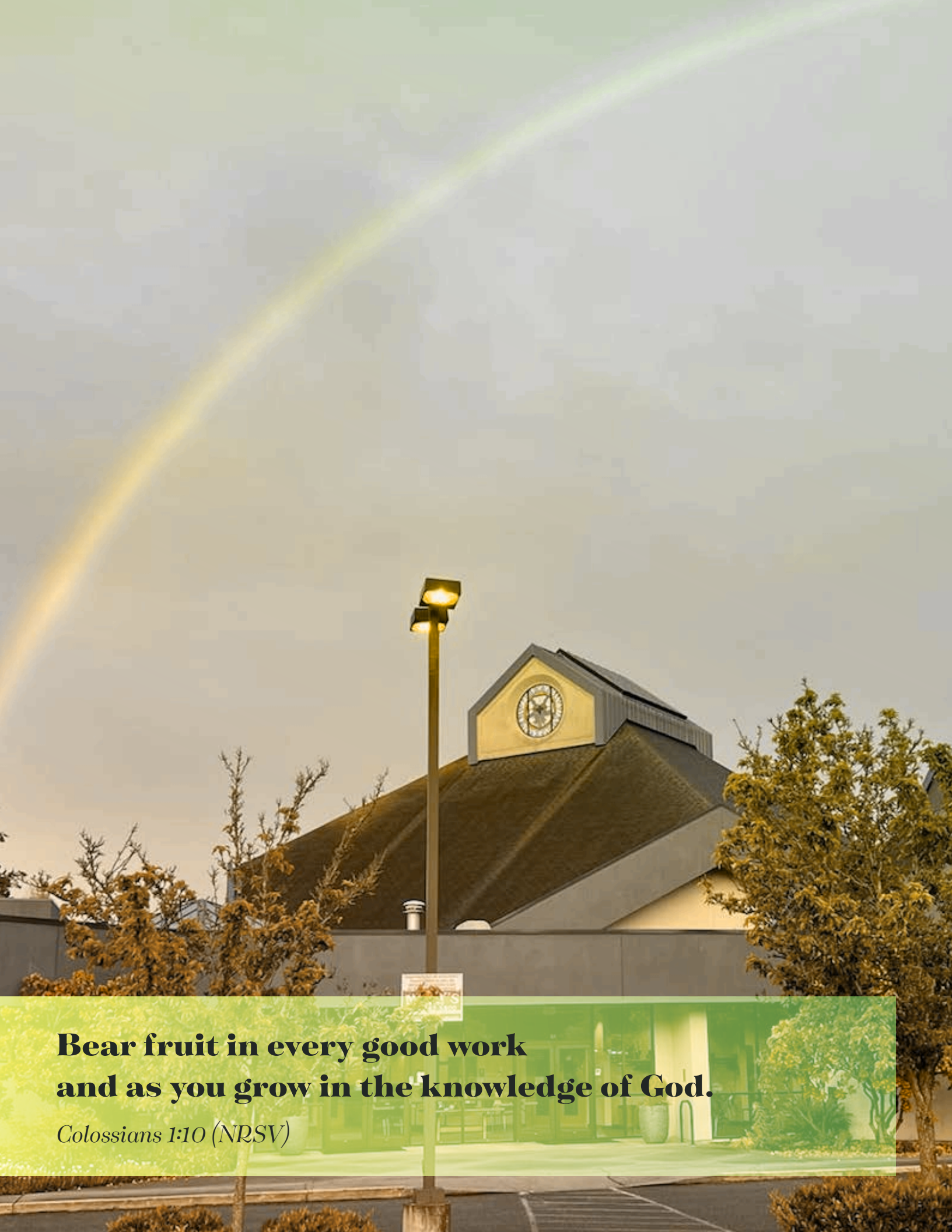
### **Why is TLCS engaging in a major capital and mission funding campaign at this time?**

Because we believe God has a strong and clear call for TLCS to lead and serve in our community, responding and adapting to the rapid change, past, present and future. The need is great! We believe this goal is achievable for the people of TLCS and have engaged outside counsel to help us wisely discern our goal. The people of TLCS has always responded generously when asked—let’s continue to do so now.

### **In these uncertain times, I don’t feel comfortable giving money away—wouldn’t it be better to save my money in case I need it?**

Scripture tells us God has given us life, our abilities and personality traits, and, sometimes through inheritance, sometimes through using those gifts God has given us, we are able to earn money. Yet, Jesus taught that what we have is not our own. It still belongs to God. We’ve simply been entrusted with oversight of it, and to use it in ways that will delight and serve God. The Bible’s starting place for doing this is to see 90% of what’s in our possession as ours to live with, and then return 10% to God, by giving it to places and partners who help bring God’s kingdom. This ends up being pretty amazingly joyful and rewarding! We can make such a difference, in ways we never ever imagined.





**Bear fruit in every good work  
and as you grow in the knowledge of God.**

*Colossians 1:10 (NRSV)*

# Focus on the Word

## Devotions for our Stewardship Journey

Stewardship is a way of life that reflects who we are, and whose we are. We are called to live generous lives.

Throughout this booklet you have learned about Trinity Lutheran Church & School's journey in striving to be faithful stewards of all that belongs to God.

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to guide, inspire, and support us in listening to the Lord's teachings, which come to us through the Scriptures, people, and all of creation.

This devotional is a guide for us to journey together, as the Spirit builds the church up and nurtures us to branch out, bearing fruit that blesses us and all people. It is also a reminder that worship is a way of life and a daily practice, because we are church everyday and anywhere.

You will notice that each day in a week has an emphasis. On Sunday we will ponder the Gospel reading assigned for that day. On Mondays, we will dig deeper in the word by reflecting on a different reading assigned for the previous Sunday. On Tuesdays, we will take action by practicing generosity. On Wednesday, as you continue to practice, you can read some inspirational poems. Thursday, you can sing, as music is a way to praise and worship. On Fridays, you will pause to reflect. And finally on Saturday, you will practice Sabbath and pray.

Notice that there are activities and resources for your children as you cultivate generosity in their lives. Our baptismal vows include cultivating the faith in our children. This is an opportunity to do it.

As we reflect, pray, and practice—united in the Spirit—we remember that all that we are and all that we have comes from God by Grace through the Lord Jesus Christ. Our lives are an act of worship, an expression of faith, and a spiritual discipline.

Generosity lived is our duty and our delight expressed by faithful living, faithful giving, and sacrificial service.

May the Spirit guide us through this month.

In Christ,  
Pastor Hector Garfias-Toledo

# Daily Devotions

## Sunday, October 2 (Ponder) - Read Luke 17:5-10

Jesus is teaching the disciples about forgiving seven times a day. The apostles respond by saying to the Lord, “increase our faith.” It seems that it is not about increasing the size or amount of faith. It is about practicing the faith that is already given. Even a “small” faith can do great things. So, it is about practicing it. We are called to do what we ought to do. That is to practice trust in God, and live out the freedom that is already given to us. We can forgive, let go, move on and forward. Faith moves us to open our hands to receive and release, trusting that what gives meaning to our lives is already given to us. We are free!

- *What makes us think that we do not have enough faith? Why?*
- *How do you live your faith?*
- *How do you see you will live out your faith in connection with the “Build up. Branch out. Generosity Lived” campaign?*

### For Parents & Young Worshipers

*The Marvelous Mustard Seed* by Amy-Jill Levine (Ages 4-8) & *A Kids Guide to Giving* by Freddi Zeiler

## Monday, October 3 (Go Deeper) - Read Lamentations 3:19-26

This passage in many ways portrays the bleak reality around us. The writer believes that God’s glory, all that he/she had hoped for from the Lord, is gone! Yet, the writer comes to the conclusion that he/she has his/her portion (v.24) - the Lord! The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, and his mercies never come to an end (v. 22).

- *In which ways does this passage speak to you and to our current situation?*
- *What do you call to mind when what you hope for from the Lord is gone?*
- *How do you experience God’s steadfast love and mercies? How do you share them with others?*
- *What does God’s steadfast love free us from?*
- *How do you see yourself living in the freedom of God’s steadfast love?*

## Tuesday, October 4 (Practice) - Read Matthew 6:24-25

- *Make a list of those things or persons that may be holding you hostage.*
- *Make a list of people or anything in your life that assures you that you are free and made whole.*
- *Identify a person around you who you can pray for or visit with to encourage with words of hope and actions that bring life. Intentionally set apart time to accompany the person.*
- *Write a reflection of how God’s steadfast love touched you and that person.*

### For Parents & Young Worshipers

Here are some books that may be helpful for parents to talk about giving, generosity, and sharing:  
[the-best-childrens-books.org/teaching-generosity.html](http://the-best-childrens-books.org/teaching-generosity.html)

Consider showing and telling your children how you give to church.

## Wednesday, October 5 - "On Generosity" by Walter Brueggemann

On our own, we conclude:  
there is not enough to go around  
we are going to run short  
of money  
of love  
of grades

of publications  
of sex  
of beer  
of members  
of years  
of life

we should seize the day  
seize our goods  
seize our neighbors goods  
because there is not enough to go around  
and in the midst of our perceived deficit  
you come  
...Sink your generosity deep into our lives  
that your muchness may expose our false lack  
that endlessly receiving we may endlessly give  
so that the world may be made Easter new,  
without greedy lack, but only wonder,

without coercive need but only love,  
without destructive greed but only praise  
without aggression and invasiveness...  
all things Easter new...  
all around us, toward us and  
by us  
all things Easter new.  
Finish your creation, in wonder, love and praise.  
Amen.

## Thursday, October 6 (Sing)

### ELW 733 + *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

*Words by Thomas O. Chisholm (1923)*

“Great is Thy faithfulness!”	Summer and winter
“Great is Thy faithfulness!”	and springtime and harvest,
Morning by morning	sun, moon, and stars
new mercies I see;	in their courses above
All I have needed	join with all nature
Thy hand hath provided—	in manifold witness
“Great is Thy faithfulness,”	to thy great faithfulness,
Lord, unto me!	mercy, and love.

### *A Good Work*

*Words by Mark A. Miller (1956)*

May the one who began  
a good work  
be faithful  
to complete it in you.  
I thank God  
everytime  
I remember you,  
constantly praying  
for you.

## Friday, October 7 (Reflect)

Desmond Tutu writes in *God Has a Dream*: "Like humility, generosity comes from seeing that everything we have and everything we accomplish comes from God's grace and God's love for us. In the African understanding of ubuntu, our humility and generosity also come from realizing that we could not be alive, nor could we accomplish anything, without the support, love, and generosity of all the people who have helped us to become the people we are today. Certainly it is from experiencing this generosity of God and the generosity of those in our life that we learn gratitude and to be generous to others."

## Saturday, October 8 (Pray)

Lord Jesus, teach me to be generous; teach me to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to seek reward, except that of knowing that I do your will. Amen.

*St. Ignatius Loyola*

# Daily Devotions

## Sunday, October 9 (Ponder) - Read Luke 17:11-19

Compared to many other cultures, Americans say “thank you” a lot. Parents often drill it into their children at a young age: “What do you say?” Throughout the day, we say “thank you” for everything from getting our coffee from a barista to the person who held a door open for us; and we hear it from cashiers, loved ones, even receipts from online purchases.

In today’s story, Jesus heals ten lepers, but only one of them made the effort to say “thank you” to God—in an all-consuming way, no less. And the narrator is sure to point out that this individual is none other than a Samaritan, a person identified as a “foreigner” (aka someone unexpected).

- *When you give thanks, what is the meaning and purpose behind it? Is it out of habit (“what do you say?”) or does it stem from something else?*
- *How is God calling you to give thanks in a radical, all-consuming way - like the foreigner in today’s story?*

## Monday, October 10 (Go Deeper) - Read 2 Timothy 2:8-15

Paul reminds us, “If we have died with Christ, we will also live with Christ.”

When we give thanks, God isn’t asking us to dismiss or deny the struggles we face on earth. Our baptisms serve as a reminder that God meets us in our pain, as well as our imperfections, and brings us into new life in His glory. When we give thanks for what God has given us, we also give thanks for the freedom we have in Christ from the things that would otherwise enslave and entangle us.

- *What pain or struggle can you give to God, so that you may be free to offer God thanks and praise?*
- *How can God’s baptismal promises call us deeper into lived generosity?*

## Tuesday, October 11 (Practice) - Read Luke 21:1-4

- *What does your “all” look like?*
- *Take a few minutes every day to reflect on what you consider gives your life true meaning. Make a list.*
- *Consider gradually increasing your giving to God’s mission through TLCS. You can lay out a plan.*
- *We pray... Today I ask God to give me the courage to name my “all” and hold nothing back from God’s control in my life.*

### For Parents & Young Worshipers

Watch this video with your children, which provides a few ways to talk about giving to God.

*Resources for Parents and Families - Episode 7: Generosity*

[churchofengland.org/our-faith/faith-home/faith-home-videos/resources-parents-and-families-episode-7-generosity](https://churchofengland.org/our-faith/faith-home/faith-home-videos/resources-parents-and-families-episode-7-generosity)

After viewing talk to your children about how you give to church, consider involving them in preparing your giving/offering.



## Wednesday, October 12 - A Prayer (Poem)

Lord  
if  
you are so known and honored for giving,  
healing, and restoring hope,  
then  
I can increase my will to give,  
my trust in others,  
my feeling for enemies,  
and my imagination for a torn world

*(Herbert F. Brokering, Lord. If Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO, 1977, page 35)*

## Thursday, October 13 (Sing)

### ACS 1092 + **Thank You, Lord**

*Words unknown*

Thank you, Lord,  
I just want to thank you, Lord.  
    Been so good,  
I just want to thank you, Lord.  
    Been my friend,  
I just want to thank you,  
    Lord.  
    Love you, Lord,  
I just want to love you Lord.

### **Ten Thousand Reasons**

*Words by Matt Redman (1974)*

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
    O my soul;  
worship God's holy name.  
    Sing like never before,  
    O my soul;  
I'll worship God's holy name.  
    The sun comes up,  
    it's a new day dawning;  
it's time to sing your song  
    again.  
    Whatever may pass,  
and whatever lies before me,  
    let me be singing  
    when the evening comes.  
    You're rich in love,

and you're slow to anger.  
    Your name is great,  
and your heart is kind.  
For all your goodness,  
I will keep on singing-  
ten thousand reasons  
for my heart to find.

And on that day  
when my strength is failing,  
the end draws near,  
and my time has come;  
still, my soul will sing  
your praise unending-  
ten thousand years  
and then forever more.

## Friday, October 14 (Reflect)

The best way to show your gratitude to God and people is to accept everything with joy...We may not be able to give much but we can always give the joy that springs from a heart that is in love with God. All over the world people are hungry and thirsty for God's love. We meet that hunger by spreading joy. Joy is one of the best safeguards against temptation.

*Mother Teresa*

## Saturday, October 15 (Pray)

Holy God, in Kindergarten we learned that sharing is important for everyone. It seemed like a good lesson. Why is it still so hard to share sometimes? Why is it easy to look away from the needs of other people, and ignore the chance to share? Make me remember that I have plenty, and I can spare so much. It is up to you to decide who deserves to receive. It is up to me to be generous. Help me give as you have given. Thank you for giving me so much more than enough.

# Daily Devotions

## Sunday, October 16 (Ponder) - Read Luke 11:5-8 & Luke 18:1-8

→ *What similarities or common themes do you find in these passages?*

Perseverance may not only mean that we keep trying and hoping for the best results. It demands vulnerability and trust. But what does it mean to trust when facing adversities?

→ *What thoughts or feelings come to you when you hear the words “pray always and do not lose heart”?*

Jesus uses the parable to affirm people that God will grant justice to those who cry to God day and night. It is God who grants justice. The context of the story is Jesus foretelling people about his passion and death, which could be a reason for people to lose heart and perhaps quit praying. Jesus challenges us to pray and act to shift from a scarcity mindset, to an abundance and trust mindset.

→ *What is the connection between justice and prayer?*

→ *What action in our daily life, individually and as a congregation, will reflect God’s generosity?*

→ *How do you think that prayer and generous living help you to grow deeper in your faith to trust in God’s promise?*

## Monday, October 17 (Go Deeper) - Read Psalm 121

This Psalm reflects the prayer of a person who is on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

The Psalmist expresses trust and confidence in God’s providence, but also recognizes that hardship and discouragement will be part of life and the faith journey.

The prayer reminds us that the Lord God is our keeper. As we enter this journey of discernment and recommitment to a generous life we are exhorted to remember where we find the strength and abundance that creates in us trust and confidence in God from whom our help comes.

→ *What is discouraging you or challenging you in your life and faith journey?*

→ *How do you think that God our keeper will accompany and keep you and the congregation?*

→ *Trusting that God will provide and keep us, what will you be praying/asking God to change your heart and actions to make generosity a way of life that brings blessing to all people through the ministry of TLCS?*

## Tuesday, October 18 (Practice) - Read Genesis 12:1-8

Abraham is a good example of living a generous way of life.

→ *Include in your daily prayers for God to grant you a heart that trusts God above everything else.*

→ *Reflect on the times when God has met your needs in surprising and amazing ways. Write them down and share them with someone as a testimony to God’s faithful provision.*

→ *We pray...*

*Today I ask God to help me give up control and begin to trust Him to be my provider.*

## For Parents & Young Worshipers

Read "Raising a cheerful giver" from Living Lutheran: [livinglutheran.org/2019/08/raising-a-cheerful-giver](http://livinglutheran.org/2019/08/raising-a-cheerful-giver)

After allowing your children to help you in preparing your giving/offering, consider giving them some money for their offering and help them to prepare it or send it at the same time you do yours.

Discuss with them how they felt, what they thought, what else they could do to give and live generously.

## Wednesday, October 19- "The Courage to Let Spirit Have Her Way With Us" by Noel Davis

In each encounter of our day we pray for courage to live the gifts of Spirit –

Violence with authority

In meeting greed with generosity Abuse with loving touch Exploitation with empowerment Indifference with commitment

Hurt with compassion Immediate gratification with discerned priorities Haste with patience

Rage with assertiveness Alienation with belonging Isolation with friendship Indolence with action Apathy with passion

Darkness with inner light.

The gifts are for us to live to claim them and let Spirit have Her way with us.

## Thursday, October 20 (Sing)

### ELW 632 + O God Our Help in Ages Past

Words by Isaac Watts (1719)

O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home:

Before the hills in order stood,  
or earth received its frame,  
from everlasting you are God,  
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in your sight  
are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night  
before the rising sun.

O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
still be our guard while troubles last,  
and our eternal home!

### Oh, Lord, You're Beautiful

Word by Keith Green (1953-1982)

Oh, Lord, You're beautiful  
Your face is all I seek;  
For when Your eyes are  
on this child, Your grace  
abounds to me.

I wanna to take Your word  
and shine it all around.  
But first help me to just  
to live it, Lord; And when

I'm doing well, Help me to  
never seek a crown. For  
my reward is giving glory  
to you.

Oh, Lord, please light  
the fire That once burnt  
bright and clear; Replace  
the lamp of my first love  
That burns with holy fear.

## Friday, October 21 (Reflect)

*Our Lives Multiply by Giving Them Away* by Henri Nouwen

The fruitfulness of our little life, once we recognize it and live it as the life of the Beloved, is beyond anything we can imagine. One of the greatest acts of faith is to believe that the few years we live on this earth are like a little seed planted in very rich soil. For this seed to bear fruit, it must die. We often see or feel only the dying, but the harvest will be abundant even when we ourselves are the harvesters.

How different would our life be were we truly able to trust that it multiplied in being given away! How different would our life be if we could believe that every little act of faithfulness, every gesture of love, every word of forgiveness, every little bit of joy and peace will multiply and multiply as long as there are people to receive it . . . and that—even then—there will be leftovers!

"Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to set before the people. The number of the men who [ate] was five thousand." - Mark 6: 41, 44 (NIV)

## Saturday, October 22 (Pray)

*Let's pray together united in the Spirit:*

Holy One of Israel, in a culture characterized by restless anxiety, we are indeed weary and heavy laden. Teach us about Sabbath rest. Give us a new understanding of how that gift can free us from our commodity-driven existence into life of neighborly relationship. In the name of the One who calls us to take his yoke upon us, wherein we can find rest, Jesus Christ. Amen.

From *Sabbath as an Act of Resistance* by Walter Brueggemann

# Daily Devotions

## Sunday, October 23 (Ponder) - Read Luke 18:9-14

Today's parable speaks of humility, a virtue that's often difficult to practice in our words and even harder to embody with our actions.

- *How does pride show up in your life, today? How might you practice greater humility with your words and your actions - not necessarily in front of others, but in front of God?*
- *How would you describe humility to a child or young person? How do we balance humility with celebration in our culture of achievement, "going places", etc? Where is God in all of that?*

### For Parents & Young Worshipers

Read *What is Given From the Heart* by Patricia C. McKissack (ages 6-8)

## Monday, October 24 (Go Deeper) - Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

- *What themes do you hear in this verse?*

At first, it may seem as if Paul is himself quite prideful; but he does indeed give thanks and glory to God for staying at his side and giving him the strength of perseverance. What may sound like pride could be interpreted as confidence in the Lord. Ultimately, Paul's message reminds his audience that followers of Christ are never left alone, but accompanied by the One who is and always will be at our side.

- *What do you make of the image of being "poured out like a drink offering" as Paul nears the end of his life?*
- *How might we consider our own lives and what we have as something to "pour out"?*

## Tuesday, October 25 (Practice) - Read Isaiah 58:6-7

- *How can generosity bring joy and fun to our lives? Maybe we are to ride the generosity roller coaster.*
- *Pray for a new vision for your generosity. Hear from God. Pray with an open heart that God will lead you in one specific area of generosity. Perhaps God has had it in your heart for a while and now is the time to step out in faith.*
- *Write down the visions that God has placed in your heart and identify one of them to put it into practice.*

### For Parents & Young Worshipers

Now that your child has seen you, helped you, and done it with your help, allow your child to do it by him/herself.

Consider talking about other ways to generously give to God their time and talent.

## Wednesday, October 26 - "Wrestling at Peniel" by Alyssa Underwood

It's at the point of desperation that the soul finds its deepest desire, and in that desire lies everything of which true life is made.

Perhaps the first and central question concerning surrender ought not to be, "What am I willing to give to God?" but "What am I willing to receive from Him?"

For it's only in the realization that I have nothing to give Him and He has everything to give me that true humility and surrender come. If I would simply receive all He offers me and let Him fill me up I would have no room in my hands to hold onto anything else. But how often it is that we won't receive it until everything else is lost.

It's the secret and inexpressible dreams of the soul  
which are the hardest things of all to let go and the last to go.  
When they are finally gone we have nothing left to run to but Him,  
and when we do we find that He is the beginning,  
the end and the center of every secret dream.

Ah, blessed Peniel—that mysterious and holy ground  
where heartache collides head-on with romance,  
that deep and shadowed land where we struggle  
with God and with men and we overcome,  
that painful yet glorious place which we may leave limping  
with a wrenched hip but we do not care, for we have seen God's face—  
like Jacob, may we not pass you by without being forever changed.

### Thursday, October 27 (Sing)

#### **ELW 712 + Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service**

*Words by Albert F. Bayly (1901-1984)*

Lord, whose love in humble  
service bore the weight of  
human need, who upon the  
cross, forsaken, worked your  
mercy's perfect deed:

we, your servants, bring the  
worship not of voice alone, but  
heart; consecrating to your  
purpose every gift which you  
impart.

Called by worship to your  
service, forth in your dear  
name we go, to the child, the  
youth, the aged, love in living  
deeds to show;

hope and health, goodwill  
and comfort, counsel, aid,  
and peace we give, that your  
servants, Lord, in freedom  
may your mercy know and live.

#### **Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly**

*Words by Pat Barrett*

It all comes down to  
this, what you require of  
me: love my neighbor as  
myself, and you above all  
things.

Act justly, love mercy,  
walk humbly  
with you, God.

It all comes down to this,  
to be Your hands and feet,  
good news to all the world,  
the truth will set us free.

It's beauty for ashes, it's  
mourning to dancing.  
It's closer and closer, the  
Kingdom of heaven.

Years from now we'll  
see the fruit our hands  
have sown. Faith, just like  
a seed, the only way it  
grows.

Act justly, love mercy,  
walk humbly  
with you, God.

### Friday, October 28 (Reflect)

*"Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom"*

Come and seek the ways of Wisdom, she who danced when earth was new, follow closely what she teaches, for her words are right and true. Wisdom clears the path to justice, showing us what love must do.

Sister Wisdom, come, assist us; nurture all who seek rebirth. Spirit-guide and close companion, bring to light our sacred worth. Free us to become your people, holy friends of God and earth.

*(Ruth Duck, All Creation Sings, Hymn 971, "Songs and Seasons," used by permission)*

### Saturday, October 29 (Pray)

"God, our gracious giver, your Son Jesus taught us that where our treasure is there our hearts will be also. Teach us to love people more than money, relationships more than things, and you above all, that the way we live will reflect what we truly value and believe. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who emptied himself in love for us, and now reigns with you and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen."

*(All Creation Sings, page 50, "Songs and Seasons," used by permission)*



# Commitment Sunday

October 30 + 10 AM

Please plan to join for this very special moment in the life of Trinity Lutheran Church & Schools as we all bring our Build Up, Branch Out commitments together during worship on Sunday, October 30, giving thanks for all that God has done in and through each one of us and the mission and ministry of TLCS.



## **(Ponder) - Read Luke 19:1-10**

We read in Ecclesiastes 5:10 that “who-ever loves money never has enough; who-ever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income.” Secular science supports this reality.

The late writer Mark Fisher termed the phrase depressive hedonia, which he describes as “an inability to do anything else except pursue pleasure. There is a sense that ‘something is missing’—but no appreciation that this mysterious, missing enjoyment can only be accessed beyond the pleasure principle.” A love of money and the act of hoarding as much of it for ourselves as possible shackles us to this futile pursuit.

On the other hand, research is showing that when people **give generously**, parts of the midbrain are activated—the same parts associated with processing rewards and thus releasing dopamine, the “happy” chemical. **Humans are, indeed, wired for generosity.**

For all those with the ability and means to give, whether little or much, generosity is the way to “take hold of the life that is truly life.” In opening our hands to give, we **open our hands to receive**. We relinquish greed and scarcity and in return receive freedom and life. Generosity is liberation.

- *What might have led Zacchaeus to accumulate more than what he needed?*
- *What do you think that happened during the meal with Jesus?*
- *What was he liberated or set free from?*
- *How is the Lord calling you to practice “Generosity lived” and experience the liberation?*

## **For Parents & Young Worshipers**

Read *Zacchaeus* by Elisient Vernon



# First Fruits

Sunday, November 20

## Our First Step Together

Mark your calendar for our First Fruits Offering. We will announce our total Build Up, Branch Out commitments on Sunday, November 20, and celebrate what God has done in each of our lives to that point. This is also when each of us will be challenged to take a big step to start our commitment.

Many who are committing stored resources or savings are encouraged to give those that day in order to accelerate the vision God has for TLCS. Others may choose to accelerate current giving by offering more than usual on this date to help us kick-start our initiative in a big way.

We encourage everyone to participate in the First Fruits Offering so together we can begin to make a tremendous impact through our generosity.



Will you join in the effort to Build Up and Branch Out, embracing God's calling to live generously in order to fund roof and building repairs and ensure sustainable mission funding?

Together, let's commit boldly so we can share the love of Jesus in our community in new ways, no matter what the future holds.



**Trinity Lutheran  
Church & Schools**  
building. belonging. becoming.