

Gift^{ing} to Serve

Growing, Caring, Reaching Out, Making a Difference IN CHRIST



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Connecting People to Christ in His Word and Love

Trinity Lutheran Church
724 South 12th Street | Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Trinity Lutheran School
1200 North 56th Street | Lincoln, Nebraska 68504

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This stewardship emphasis is an opportunity for us all as we follow and serve Jesus. Trusting in our Heavenly Father, we can establish a solid foundation of hope for continuing ministry for years and generations to come.

I have witnessed so many good things in my first year with you here at Trinity. People have stepped up in numerous ways to address issues and move ministry forward. God has placed our church, school and early childhood education program (ECE) in the perfect place for the ministry He wants us to do this day, and every day for decades to come.

I have seen immense love and care shown towards fellow members and community neighbors. I have seen gifts of service, food preparation, and hospitality that take a back seat to no one. As we serve others through the ministries of our church, school and ECE program, we are serving Christ with the gifts that He has first given to us.

Yes, we face challenges. But our trust and confidence is in Christ Jesus, our Lord. And we know and believe that God has placed us here, in this time and place, for a purpose.

We will repair our tower. We will complete the proposed projects at our church and school. We will strive to meet our *Gifting To Serve* goals because we want the ministries of our church, school and ECE program to be secure, to thrive and to grow.

Here are some more examples that God is indeed blessing the work we do together:

- Our school and ECE program is again growing
- Fellowship, love and trust has grown in our worship service and fellowship together
- Children's messages during worship services has encouraged our families
- Mission Minute talks during worship services have informed members and empowered leaders
- Bible studies have grown in number of offerings and attendance
- Our new Trinity Action Council (TAC) is coordinating our working together
- Our faithful first-fruit giving and stewardship has grown, all to the glory of God!



I see fields ripe for the harvest as we extend God's love and compassion to those we see each day in our school, at work and in our community. What is it that God would have us each do? Take your consideration to God in prayer as you count your blessings and ponder God's will for you at this time and place! And may God grant you great joy and satisfaction in what you decide!

In Christ,
Rev. Glenn Meyer

***"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."
2 Corinthians 9:8***

Giftng to Serve - Our Past to Present

Trinity Lutheran Church is the oldest Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod congregation in Lincoln. Founded in 1881, we continue to **Connect People to Christ in His Word and Love.**

In the late 1800s, Lincoln was a booming prairie town with a population of thirteen thousand, the capitol of the state, and growing so fast that it still lacked paved streets, water and sewage systems. A massive immigration of Europeans seeking a better life in this new country was underway. Among those immigrants were the German Lutherans who founded Trinity Lutheran Church.

On November 27th, 1881, Trinity Lutheran Congregation was organized by Pastor Frederick Koenig with five charter members. Pastor Koenig was serving Trinity Lutheran Church northwest of Malcolm and agreed to come to Lincoln (fifteen miles on horseback) every two weeks to conduct services. In 1882, Trinity called its first pastor, H. Frincke, a graduate of the St. Louis Seminary. Trinity did not have a church home and rented other facilities to hold services. A Christian Day School started with two children in attendance. Over the past 130 years, Trinity Lutheran Church and School maintained its mission of connecting people to Christ in His Word and love!

Trinity has helped give birth to Lutheran churches across the community since its founding, making a difference in the lives of thousands of people who faithfully worship God. Thousands more children have come to know Jesus as their Lord through the ministries of our Lutheran schools. God has blessed us in growing, caring, reaching out, and making a difference.

The next three to five years will be very exciting times for Trinity. As we grow in our faith, demonstrate our care for others, and reach out with the Gospel to the lost, we will truly make a difference in the lives of God's people. We see these blessings as God blesses the efforts of His people at Trinity. Together, we will accomplish more than we could ever imagine! God is good and powerful; His mercy never ceases!

What can we accomplish now that will have positive impact for the near and long term future?

Now is the time to lay the foundation for strengthening our ministry as we await the arrival of our resident pastor. These foundational steps include:

1. Repairing the Bell Tower
2. Eliminating our debt
3. Addressing a number of items on the Project List
4. Unifying our congregation as one body of Christ
5. Strengthening our congregational stewardship

Growing, Caring, Reaching Out, Making a Difference

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”
Jeremiah 29:11



Giftgiving to Serve Goals

The following two pages are financial goals set forth by the leadership of Trinity. It is our prayer that we stretch our faith and unify our efforts to strengthen the faith of our membership and the ministry we share.

GOAL LEVEL 1: \$600,000

Repair of the Tower...

Goal: \$132,000 (\$40,000 remaining)

The total estimate to repair the tower is \$225,000. Through the generosity of Trinity individuals approximately \$80,000 has already been given! Additionally, our Trinity Foundation has also pledged \$112,500 to cover half of the estimated repair cost, leaving only \$40,000 remaining. We praise God for these gifts!

Repayment of Internal Debt...

Goal: \$230,000

Over the past 5 years, our ministry has encountered challenges leading to borrowing from our internal restricted funds an amount totaling \$230,000. This \$230,000 will be fully repaid to our internal restricted funds. We believe our congregation has been blessed over the past year to set a course of a stronger ministry and a more positive and hope-filled future.

This *Giftgiving to Serve* stewardship emphasis will prayerfully remind each of us about our role as stewards of the blessings from God in our personal lives, so that we make significant changes in our overall patterns of giving. We are already seeing evidence that we have turned the corner on our patterns of giving. Again, praise the Lord!

Mission Support...

Goal: 10% of all gifts

In the past, Trinity was a strong supporter of LCMS district, national and international missions. Through this *Giftgiving to Serve* stewardship emphasis we will dedicate 10% of all gifts to the mission work of our LCMS church body.

Giftgiving to Serve Expenses...

Goal: \$45,000

The involvement and leadership of Cornerstone Stewardship Ministry and the materials we have prepared are an investment in our current and future mission at Trinity Lutheran Church & School.

School Roof Repair...

Goal: \$78,000

Projects: roof over lunch room, roof over gym, seal wall from roof above gym and office

School Storage Shed...

Goal: \$20,000

Project: storage shed up to 20' x 20' with electricity

School Technology Phase 1...

Goal: \$52,000

Projects: wireless infrastructure upgrade, new laptops for teachers, replacement of computer lab hardware.

“But since you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you - see that you also excel in this grace of giving,”
Corinthians 8:7

Gifting to Serve Goals

GOAL LEVEL 2: \$200,000

Church Windows (office & classrooms) Replacement...
Goal: \$41,000

School Windows Replacement...
Goal: \$34,000

Church Repair List #1...
Goal: \$47,000
Outside Projects: repair sidewalk concrete, landscaping, walkways, roof leaks, parking lot cracks & restriping
Inside Repairs: organ tune-up & wiring

Exterior Security Lighting at Church & School...
Goal: \$9,000

School Heating & Cooling...
Goal: \$70,000
Project: replace heating & cooling system in 5th grade classroom down to new toddler room

“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21



GOAL LEVEL 3: ~200,000

School Playground Enhancements...
Goal: \$45,000

Projects: shade structures over sandbox & toddler area, playground surface - rubber tile, replace the X-Wave equipment

School Technology Phase 2...
Goal: \$75,000
Projects: interactive boards & tablets for classrooms, iPads and Chromebooks for classrooms, on-going upgrades and training, 3D printer, green screen technology, LEGO Minestorm/Robotics and Simple Machines

Downtown Child Care Study...
Goal: \$10,000
Project: feasibility study for assessing growth potential and space requirements

Church Repair List #2...
Goal: \$20,000
Projects: sanctuary tile floor, alleyway/baptismal entry doors, exterior wall repair, remodel parish hall storage closet & replace flooring

Replace Church Van & Pickup...
Goal: \$30,000
Projects: replace church 15 passenger van and pickup

School Exterior & Grounds Enhancements...
Goal: \$20,000
Projects: install sprinkler/irrigation system, water line to garden, fix ball field drainage

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.” Colossians 3:23

*Gift*ing to Serve

Questions and Answers

Why is this emphasis important to me?

This is a God-given opportunity for me to grow in my faith, commitment and servanthood as a follower of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. Having an emphasis on...

- Gifting to Serve allows me to reflect on my relationship with my Savior, my church and the gifts God has blessed me to use while I serve Him in His kingdom.
- Gifting to Serve allows me to take ownership and pride in our Trinity church and school ministry and help accomplish our goal of letting the community and our membership know we are hopeful for the future of Trinity.
- Gifting to Serve helps our children, grandchildren and those who follow us to share the good news of hope in Jesus with our community and beyond.

How much money are we hoping to raise?

Over a three year period, the *Gift*ing to Serve stewardship emphasis has identified 3 levels of financial goals: \$600,000, \$800,000, & \$1,000,000.

What is this emphasis supporting?

The project list is identified in this booklet. This emphasis will support our current ministry to children and adults, and enhance our ability to be bold in sharing the resources God has given us in *Gift*ing to Serve. Repairing the tower, repaying our debts, improving our church/school facilities and tithing to support LCMS missions will allow us to fellowship together and bring a sense of pride and accomplishment in what God is doing among us. It is our prayer that God will grow our prayer life, our commitment to Him, and our zeal for being a disciple of Jesus in sharing what we have received – God’s grace.

How can we expect to generate \$1,000,000 in funds?

It could never happen without the Lord’s blessing. All of our endeavors call for a firm reliance on the Lord of the Church and clinging to Him in faith. The entire congregation will be encouraged to be in prayer daily, prayerfully considering our gifts from God and how to use those gifts to give glory to Him and to strengthen the kingdom work at Trinity Lutheran Church & School. During this emphasis, we will explore where God is leading us to make a sacrificial gift, and talk with fellow members about the need to all work together as God raises our faith to meet His challenge. Jesus tells us in John 15 and Luke 6

“Without me, you can do nothing.”

“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.”

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”



My joyful, generous gift - What is it?

You may ask, "What is it that you would like me to consider giving so we can achieve the goals of this special stewardship emphasis, *Gifting to Serve*?" Your joyful generous gift!

All of our members have the right and responsibility to make their own decisions. We also know that through His Word God's Holy Spirit is at work in our lives, leading us to grow in our faith and generosity.

Please give as God blesses and moves you. We pray that all of our gift giving decisions will flow from hearts of faith.

Four giving guidelines are described below. Use them to stimulate your thinking. They may seem challenging, even impossible. However, we ask you to view these guidelines in the context of faith, remembering all the blessings God has given you.

Guideline 1 Matching gift

Pray and consider matching or doubling your current giving over the next three years. For example, if you currently give \$20 per week (\$1,040 per year) to the annual ministry of our congregation, would you prayerfully consider giving an additional \$20 per week (\$2,080 per year) in support of the capital campaign?

Guideline 2 Growth in giving gift

Consider the percentage of your household income you presently give. Median household income in Lancaster County is almost \$54,000. So, for example, a median household giving \$2,700 per year (5%) might consider giving to the campaign an additional 1-2% (\$540-\$1,080) beyond their annual giving to reach at least 6 - 7% of income.

Guideline 3 Proportionally large gift

Consider a stretch goal as a benchmark to reach and exceed. For example, if you are at 7% annual giving now, consider increasing your giving by 1, 2 or 3% for each of the next three years to reach 10%.

Guideline 4 Extraordinary Opportunity gift

We invite members who have been blessed financially to pray and consider making gifts of \$15,000, \$30,000, \$60,000 or more over the course of the three-year emphasis. Consider whether this is a good time to give an appreciated asset. See the "Extraordinary Time - Extraordinary Opportunity" brochure for ideas about appreciated asset giving. One simple way to make an extraordinary gift applies to people older than 70½ with a gift from their IRA. Another extraordinary gift for everyone to consider is including Trinity in your will and estate planning. More information will be shared on these topics.



"For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own they pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us." 2 Corinthians 8:3-5.

Gift to Serve

“Lord, what do you want to do through me to accomplish Your will for Trinity?”

Giving is a reflection of God’s many gifts to us.

We have a challenging goal. We trust God will bless our efforts to attain it. After all, without God, we can do nothing. It is also true that God grants His blessings through His people, and that includes you!

The Leadership Team is asking for you to consider beginning your commitments on Celebration Sunday. But before you make a financial decision, we are asking every member to consider the following question,

“Lord, what do You want to do through me to accomplish Your will for this ministry?”

We also ask you to use this simple plan:

BEGIN TO PRAY – Ask God’s guidance as you seek to become part of *Gift to Serve* stewardship emphasis. Prayerfully begin thinking of an additional weekly, monthly, or yearly amount that you would like to invest in God’s work here at Trinity.

DECIDE – Let the Lord Jesus help you in your decision about how you will give and the amount that you will give to invest in the ministry at Trinity. Trinity believes we cannot give more to God than what he promises to give to us. Whatever amount you decide to give in faith over the next three years is a gift that pleases God.

USE THE PROMISE CARD – The promise card is a way to record your promise on paper. The promise card is a planning tool. It is an indication of your intent to support this stewardship emphasis. Promise cards will be returned in church during Celebration Sunday service on May 20, Pentecost Sunday. Those who wish may make their promise gift prior to this date by sending it to the church office or dropping promise cards in the designated box in the narthex.

FOLLOW UP - Regular updates will be shared with the membership about on the Project List and status of the stewardship emphasis.

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”
2 Corinthians 9:8

