



Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. –2 Peter 3:18

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Trinity Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The past few weeks of worship, our readings have taken us through Hebrews 11 and 12. Some words we heard over and over again in the readings were “**by faith.**” It’s one of my personal favorite sections of Scripture for a variety of reasons. We get a recap of many of the Old Testament people who lived **by faith** in the Lord, even though times weren’t easy. We get affirmation that these people were saved **by faith** because they trusted in the Savior God promised after humanity fell into sin. We get encouragement from the lives of faith of those who have gone before us, knowing they are part of the “cloud of witnesses” surrounding us as we **by faith** “run with perseverance the race set out for us”.

By faith is a theme not only in Hebrews, but throughout all of Scripture. It remains a defining theme for our lives today. **By faith** is foundational to all we are called to do and be, as Christ’s church. Together as God’s people at Trinity, we gather continually in this truth that, “it is by grace you have been saved **through faith.**...not from yourselves, it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Yet as we live, serve, and function on this earth as God’s redeemed people, we rejoice that He equips us with tools for this life. Weekly, we make a confession of faith that, we “believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.” We are able to understand even more what that means in Luther’s explanation in the Small Catechism: “I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.”

Did you notice the words, “my reason and all my senses”? Without a doubt, we live **by faith** “sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see” (Hebrews 11:1). We give thanks that God has also equipped us with brains, reason, and sense to guide and navigate our lives, trusting in Him along the way.

Those reminders preface the exciting culmination of the past years’ work with **TRINITYgrowing**. The expansion of building and ministries will enhance opportunities for us and others to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18). As many know, during the past year of developing construction plans and our ongoing capital campaign, the number estimate for our project was \$3.2 million. Unsurprisingly, after a year full of extraordinary happenings nationally and abroad, that number has increased.

Trinity’s campus committee and congregational leadership discussed at length all possible options for next steps in light of this increase. Options included waiting, rebidding the project, or completing it in stages. Each of these options would result in significantly higher costs in the long-run. The ultimate decision to be made was to continue moving forward, or not. The congregation decided at a special voters’ assembly on July 24th to proceed with the project, and accept the general contractor’s bid, by a vote of 47-2.

Details of the final congregational approval include:

- Haselhoff Construction serving as general contractor, using many local and regional sub-contractors throughout the project

- An accepted construction bid of \$4.1 million (*While above the initial estimate of \$3.2 million, it is under the 30% increase similar projects are seeing.*)
- Projected completion date of July 25, 2023, barring any extenuating circumstances regarding materials and inclement weather
- Short-term goals for construction are: dirt work beginning the week of August 22nd, footings poured early September, and walls constructed by winter

With all that has and continues to take place, it is a very exciting time to be a part of Christ's church here at Trinity. We are committed to continue growing in faith and growing together. As a community of believers blessed by God, we are committed to be a blessing to the community around us.

Amid the excitement, it is understandable to have some trepidation and skepticism. In those times, we can be reminded of God's promises in Scripture. Using our God-given minds, reasons, and senses, we continue on with optimism **by faith**. As we continue to focus on our **TRINITYgrowing** theme of growing "in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18), we do so in our lives as humble servants, witnesses, and stewards of all that God has given.

As **TRINITYgrowing** continues now and in the years ahead, we strive to keep communications open and up to date. Enclosed is your statement of giving through the first week of August. It includes both contributions of regular giving as well as over and above contributions specific to **TRINITYgrowing**. If any questions are had, please contact Nancy at the church office.

As we move forward **by faith** in a very exciting time, please consider your continued commitment in the following ways:

PRAY – for the present and future ministries of Trinity; for the project ahead, including all who will be laboring in the next year;

GROW – continue to be involved in the life and ministry of the church in worship, activities, Bible study, fellowship opportunities, serving, witnessing, and inviting;

GIVE – Prayerfully consider your personal and family stewardship of time, abilities, and financial support through regular giving and over and above contributions to **TRINITYgrowing**.

For those interested in learning more about leaving a faith-filled legacy, Jim Schroeder from Lutheran Foundation will be visiting Trinity this fall to share about estate planning. This approach continues to bless churches and ministries even when the giver is no longer there to see it. It is through gifts like this, from a faithfully departed brother and sister in Christ, that have provided the ability to move forward with our current plans and project.

As a body of believers, with Christ as the head, let us give thanks for the many gifts and abilities God has given throughout this body. May we encourage one another to continue growing in faith and growing together. Through it all, we **by faith** continue as His people, living as the Lord calls and following as He leads.

In Christ,

Pastor Riggert