



## Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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*So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own.  
Today's trouble is enough for today.  
~ Matthew 6:34 ~*

May 19, 2020

Beloved Family of God,

Grace to you and peace during these unusual days. May the promise of our Lord's presence by the gift of his Spirit, which we celebrate especially at this point in the church calendar, comfort our anxieties, calm our restlessness, steady our nerve, and clarify our thinking.

As Jesus reassured his disciples in Matt. 6, it is good and right for us to focus on meeting the challenges of the day and not become consumed with worries about tomorrow. It has always been true that we cannot know exactly what tomorrow will bring, and that is particularly the case now. What we know is that God holds tomorrow as God holds today, and so we do well to commit the events of tomorrow and their consequences to God's benevolent care.

In this spirit of calm confidence about tomorrow, I invite you to rejoin me in prayerful consideration of our church's annual budget. Enclosed is a card requesting an estimate of giving for the upcoming fiscal year (July 2020 to June 2021). Council recognizes that some are able to make an accurate estimate at this point, while others, due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, are not. The card accounts for both possibilities; simply indicate which applies, knowing that, for those who cannot make an estimate, it is not God's desire to add the weight of tomorrow's ministries to the burden of today's scarcity.

We cannot know which of the strategies for ministry that were hatched over the winter, and which of the increases in committee spending requested in the spring will prove feasible this coming fiscal year, and we must not lose sleep over such concerns. Trinity's pastors, staff, and volunteers will faithfully carry out the work of God's Kingdom with whatever resources God provides.

Planning for tomorrow is not the same as worrying about it. Jesus rebukes the second and encourages the first (besides Matt. 6:34, see Lk. 14:25-34). Planning for tomorrow happens to be the task placed before Trinity's leadership today. Your estimate of giving, or your indication of inability to provide an estimate, greatly aids us in that effort. Thank you!

*Continues on back.*

Because we only now are able to rejoin our stewardship conversation, which we began then quickly suspended in March, Trinity's council will not be in position to make a recommendation to the congregation for a vote on the budget in early June, when we normally would hold our annual meeting. The council has therefore postponed that meeting until **Sunday, August 30**. We ask that you complete and return the enclosed card to the church *by the end of June*. That will give our financial secretary sufficient opportunity to compile its content and council at least one chance to gather and consider the total giving estimate before our rescheduled annual meeting.

For members facing special economic struggles, Trinity may be able to offer assistance. We have a benevolence fund set aside for just this purpose. We may not have sufficient resources to address every need fully, but I am delighted to explore how we can at least lessen those that our congregation faces. The process of considering requests is discreet. If you are in special need or know a member who is, please do not hesitate to contact me.

May the steadfast love of God, who is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow, continue to sustain his church and give his children abundant life!

Easter Blessings,

Pastor Aaron