

## Trinity Lutheran Church

2103 Route 6, Brewster, NY 10509

845-279-5181

[www.trinitybrewsterny.org](http://www.trinitybrewsterny.org)

Rev. Jennifer E. Boyd

Revjedyeri@yahoo.com

November 20, 2020

Dearly beloved,

This scriptural translation from The Message of Paul's letter to the Romans was shared in an e-newsletter that I recently received (see below for the link) and while the article was talking about year round stewardship, one word jumped out at me – "ordinary". Nothing seems ordinary or "normal" about these "unprecedented" days (can we agree to either find a different word or not use this for at least 20 years or so). We long for ordinary, normal and even mundane.

*So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him...Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it.*

(Romans 12:1-2; The Message)

Yet, despite the lack of ordinariness of our lives, we are called and invited to place each of our moments before God as an offering. We offer up our hopes and our fears, our worries and our celebrations. We offer our families, our jobs, our homes and our relationships. We offer all that we are, all that we have and all that we hope to be to the One who gives it all to us, trusting that God will use even our lack of ordinariness to bear much fruit.

Trusting that God does bring new life out of these unprecedented days, we live in hope. We act deliberately in anticipation of what Christ can accomplish in and through us. We seek to not be conformed to the fear, anger and worry of this world, but transformed by the hope and promise of God's amazing grace. We live faithfully in response to this grace.

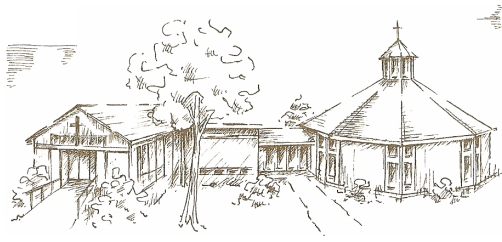
As such, we are inviting you in the midst of these days to make a commitment for the coming year. As we move into the possibilities of what God has in store for us, we ask you to prayerfully consider your pledge for the coming year. You will find a **commitment form** with this letter. Please fill it out and return it by **Sunday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>** so that we can begin to plan for the coming year. If you are unsure of what your pledge was for this year, please contact the church office.

May the peace of Christ dwell in you richly as we live into these days!

Peace in Christ, *Pastor Jen*

Faith +Lead (<https://faithlead.luthersem.edu/focus-on-year-round-stewardship-its-not-over-after-annual-response> )

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Rom. 12:1-2, NRSV)*



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Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

Considering how bad COVID-19 has been for everyone, your church has come through 2020 fairly well. It has been a bit of a tough year, but it looks like we are almost through it. And next year is looking better.

COVID-19 played havoc with Trinity. We had to cancel in-house services for months, and even when we reopened, we could only seat a greatly reduced in-person congregation.

As a result, we are \$14,000 behind. To make your financial gnome feel a little better how about you dig a bit deeper into your wallets and to see if you can come up with an especially nice yearend contribution to help close our budget gap.

And long the same line, please remember to submit your pledge cards for 2021. We base our 2021 budget on the number of cards submitted and the amounts pledged. The more pledges, the better the 2021 budget estimate.

However, before I close on an uplifting note I would like to give you a little advice.

So, listen up. We've got a hole in our budget, and you guys might want to cough up a chunk of cash to help reduce that. Why? It would be a shame if something bad happened to your Christmas. If your tree fell down the stairs. Or your presents got delivered down the wrong chimney. Or a reindeer had an accident on your carpet. If someone went to Santa and dropped a few hints about you, things could get ugly, really fast with the big guy.

In closing, have a happy in-person Thanksgiving with only your closest loved ones. Wish the rest the best from a socially safe distance.

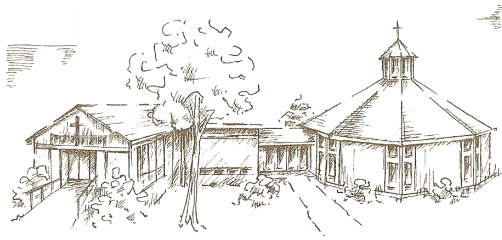
Have a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving.

Your Financial Gnome,

Don Icken

P.S. Santa's watching you.





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### 2021 Annual Stewardship Appeal Commitment Form

In gratitude, I/we intend to give to God's work in and through Trinity Lutheran Church, a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 2021 (annual gift).

**I/we intend to give our gifts:**

Weekly \_\_\_ Monthly \_\_\_ Quarterly \_\_\_

Semi-Annually \_\_\_ Annually on \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive donation envelopes.

I authorize the financial secretary to effect this change.

Make life easy and checkless – set up auto monthly payments through your bank.

You may sign up to give online at <http://trinitybrewsterny.org/wordpress/>

click on the donate button to complete the form.

**There is a reason why I cannot pledge:**

I am currently facing a difficulty.

I would like the pastor to contact me.

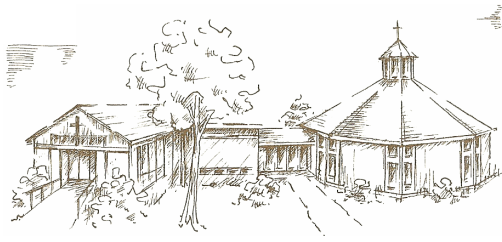
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



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Annual Income	Weekly Income	Weekly Pledge					
		1%	3%	5%	8%	10% <i>tithe</i>	12%
\$20,800	\$400	\$4	\$12	\$20	\$32	\$40	\$48
\$31,200	\$600	\$6	\$18	\$30	\$48	\$60	\$72
\$41,600	\$800	\$8	\$24	\$40	\$64	\$80	\$96
\$52,000	\$1,000	\$10	\$30	\$50	\$80	\$100	\$120
\$62,400	\$1,200	\$12	\$36	\$60	\$96	\$120	\$144
\$72,800	\$1,400	\$14	\$42	\$70	\$112	\$140	\$168
\$83,200	\$1,600	\$16	\$48	\$80	\$128	\$160	\$192
\$93,600	\$1,800	\$18	\$54	\$90	\$144	\$180	\$216
\$104,000	\$2,000	\$20	\$60	\$100	\$160	\$200	\$240
\$130,000	\$2,500	\$25	\$75	\$125	\$200	\$250	\$300
\$156,000	\$3,000	\$30	\$90	\$150	\$240	\$300	\$360
\$182,000	\$3,500	\$35	\$105	\$175	\$280	\$350	\$420