

Pastor Brian's
Mid Week Message
November 10, 2021

"COMPLETION"

"And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."
(Philippians 1:6)

Back in the spring we enlisted the aid of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund's "Immeasurably More" development campaign to raise the needed funds to put up a new church building and expand our ministries going forward for several generations to come. We branded our campaign "Building to Serve Christ and Community" as that's the very purpose of everything attached to this building program...to be better able to serve our Lord Jesus Christ and the people that he has planted us among, our community. That includes our worshiping community here at Trinity Lutheran Church of SW Florida and the community the surrounds us. We're especially concerned for the eternal fate of those around us that are still walking in darkness without the light of Christ in their hearts. It is now mid-November, and we are nearing the climax of all our efforts in carrying out this campaign. A week and a half from now, on Sunday November 21st we will hold our Charter Member Dinner at the Rotonda West American Legion Hall. This event will celebrate the faith and foresight of those who brought this church into being. Our honored guests will enjoy a Thanksgiving style lunch and ultimately be the first to make their commitments as to how they will contribute to our growth over the next 3 years. At the end of the day, we will announce the financial commitments that have been made, the foundation of what will become our total of pledges. Two Sundays later, on December 5th. We will hold our Commitment Sunday Celebration. On that Sunday we will have one joint worship service at 9:30am. During that service the rest of us who have not yet made our commitments will be able to bring their cards forward. These commitments include those of prayer as well as service and support of our ongoing mission and ministry. They will be sealed in an envelope so the only other person(s) who will know what is inside will be God the Father Son and Holy Spirit. After worship we'll go outside to enjoy a Sunday Brunch...picnic pot-luck style. As we eat and fellowship the commitments will be totaled and then the results will be announced. Our stated goal is at least \$1.5 million more than what we currently have in the Building Fund, which today is approaching \$600,000. Finally, a week later on Sunday December 12th those who wish to make a gift to the Building Fund in 2021 will be encouraged to do so on what we'll call our "First Fruit Gifts" Sunday. God planted this church, TLC, here intentionally because He sees the future and He knew that there would be phenomenal growth all around us. Homes are literally sprouting out of the ground just up the highway in the Westport development and another huge development is just about set to get off the ground right across the highway from us. Many more people are coming...many more people who need to know and experiences for themselves the love of God shown to all of us in Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior. If we do not share our faith, hope, and love with them, who will? God has brought us all here together for such a time as this. He began a good work in us when He breathed life into Trinity Lutheran Church of SW Florida back in October of 2015 by the power of the Holy Spirit. Since then, He has blessed us immeasurably more than we could ask or even imagine, and He's not done yet! God our Father will bring this work to completion according to His good and perfect will, plan, and timing. Ours is to believe and trust in Him and be willing to use the many blessings that He has given us personally and, in our families, to do the work that He has called us to do and to accomplish all that He has set before us. Everyone has a part to play in this and all are of equal importance. We will give according to the measure that God has given to us. Jesus Himself says, *"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."* Luke 12:48b There are certainly some members and friends of our church who will be able simply to pray, due to age, health, and economic conditions. So, we simply desire their prayers. No one is expected or will be asked to do more than they are able to do. I do know that many of us have been blessed to the point of being able to do a great deal. I'm reminded of a time when Jesus was teaching on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. A boy offered his lunch, 5 biscuits and 2 small fish, which fed 1000s upon 1000s of people. Jesus multiplies the offerings we bring to accomplish His purposes. I trust Him to do just that with us and through us.