

Pastor Brian's
Mid Week Message
October 19, 2021

"TIME FLIES!"

"You do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes." (James 4:14)

Tomorrow, October 21st of 2021, marks the 3-year anniversary of my installation as the pastor here at Trinity Lutheran Church of SW Florida. To me, it doesn't seem like it has been near that long. To you, the perception might just be different. Either way, there has been a lot that has happened in these 3 short years. We've welcomed many into our fellowship as members and friends of TLC. We've also bid our farewells to some, those who have moved away and especially those who have gone on before us to worship our God before His eternal throne in heaven. Kay and I led a tour of Israel just as the Covid-19 pandemic was breaking out, and we've dealt with that for a year and half now. We also celebrated our 5th anniversary as a chartered congregation in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod last October, and the highlight of the event was the burning of our original mortgage. It's been obvious from the very beginning that God had great plans for our humble little church, and I believe it is just as obvious that this is still the case. We are well on our way in planning for a new church building, and if God wills it construction will begin just after the 1st of the year. We are also well on our way in carrying out a church building campaign, which we have aptly named *"Building to Serve Christ and Community"*.



Yes, this is a fundraising campaign to pay for the new church's construction, but even more important is that it is a campaign to grow our mission and ministry in this place, Gulf Cove on the SW coast of Florida. Our number one goal in all of this is to better serve Jesus and reach out into the community around us with His love and compassion, bringing the light and life of the Gospel into hearts that are darkened by sin, death, and the devil. We are Christ's ambassadors in this place to connect our neighbors to Him by faith. The Holy Spirit provides the power as God entrusts us to carry the message. Through the next couple of months there are going to be a number of very important activities within the TLC family, and we want to make sure that everyone has the chance to participate in them. The climax will come with our Charter Member Celebration on Sunday November 21st. All charter members will be the honored guests at a luncheon that will celebrate the faith and foresight they had in bringing this congregation to life 6 years ago. On Sunday December 5th we'll hold our Commitment Sunday Celebration with a special joint worship service followed by a pot-luck picnic brunch. Between these two events we will all have the opportunity to make our personal commitment as to how we can individually and as families support the future growth of Trinity Lutheran Church of SW Florida.