

Pastor Brian's
Mid Week Message
September 18, 2019

“MY HOW TIME FLIES!”

We're having a FISH FRY tonight!!! I love fish and I love them even more when their fried, so I'm pretty stoked! The occasion for this piscatorial hullabaloo is the September Fellowship Buffet. Ahhh...the September Fellowship Buffet...I remember it well, as last year's (2018) September Fellowship Buffet was the first such monthly feast that Kay and I ever attended here at Trinity Lutheran Church of Southwest Florida. Allow me to offer a bit of context. The previous Sunday the Voter's Assembly of TLC made the decision to extend the Divine Call to me to be the pastor of the aforementioned congregation. On that Sunday we just so happened to be out of town, but that's a story to tell at another time. During the ensuing week we were "prayerfully considering" the Call, but in our hearts and minds we both already knew what the answer would be. That Wednesday evening a year ago gave us an opportunity to get better acquainted with the members and friends of the church. After dinner I even recall making a short statement and answering (as coyly as possible) a few questions. As we all know...the rest is history, and like it or not, I'm still here a year later. It's a bit difficult to process the fact that a full year has gone by. It sure doesn't feel like it has been that long, but on the other hand there has been a lot that has happened in this short period of time. Our church family has experienced a good deal of growth, while at the same time we've seen some called home to the Lord and our eternal family in heaven. Great progress has been made at reducing our mortgage debt and the planning process for a new church building has taken off. We've identified and set out on new outreach opportunities in our community through the Pregnancy Careline Center of Charlotte County, YoungLife and Englewood Helping Hand, while reaching out in international missions into Russia and potentially through Compassion International. Internally there are new Bible studies on Sunday morning and Tuesdays, as we look to expand with a women's Bible study and perhaps an evening group. I could continue to list all of the areas that the Lord is working through us, but the bottom line is that the Spirit of God is indeed active and at work in us, with us and through us here at Trinity. It's certainly exciting to consider where the Lord is taking us on this journey. My prayer is, and I ask that it be one of yours too, is that we will take every opportunity to seek and listen for God's guidance and direction, and be granted the wisdom and discipline to follow the Spirit as He leads us. As we pray in the Lord's Prayer; "Thy will be done" Lord...even when it appears to be in conflict with my will.