

Pastor Brian's  
Mid Week Message  
May 26, 2021

**"IT'S ONLY 3 MILLION!"**

*"Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act."* (Psalm 37:4-5)

I just read in the newspaper, the Sarasota Herald-Tribune, that Selby Gardens just received their 3rd \$1 million gift in 3 weeks. Imagine that...imagine if that would happen to us here at Trinity Lutheran Church of SW Florida as we move forward with plans to construct a new worship center, offices, and fellowship area. Marie Selby Gardens is not so different than we are at TLC. It exists to be a benefit to the community; all people are welcome. It's a not-for-profit entity and therefore is tax exempt, and its leaders are positioning it for future growth and improvements. The big difference is that as far as I can tell, Marie Selby Gardens offers no eternal benefits from God through Jesus Christ. We do! And now...This is what \$3 million looks like.



At least I wish that this were what \$3 million looked like, as these are "simulated currency" in the denomination of \$1 million dollars each that I have in a folder in my office. In our "Glory Days" Bible study session yesterday we were reminded that God wants us to pray boldly; specifically, and confidently to Him. We're invited to storm the gates of heaven and beat down the doors to His throne room with audacious requests, demanding to be heard. Martin Luther prayed this way, and so should we! There's a catch though. Before we do that, we have to have our ducks in a row, we have to have laid the groundwork. The Psalmist tells us just what that is in the verses above.

We must delight ourselves in the Lord...commit our way to the Lord...and if we can do that, He'll give us the desires of our heart. That's a promise from God, the God that has never failed to deliver on a promise. If we, by the power of the Holy Spirit within us, keep God at the center of all that we do here at TLC, delight in Him and commit to living out His Word, He'll give us \$3 million (the real stuff) to build a new church where we can worship Him and serve Him, and use it as a tool to reach out into our community with the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Maybe, just maybe, He's lining up 3 different people/families to each donate \$1 million in the next 3 weeks. Is it too audacious to pray for that to happen? I don't think so. Is it possible that there are 3 people/families within the family of God here at Trinity Lutheran Church that could financially offer that kind of a gift to God and to this congregation? I believe that it's possible, *"for nothing is impossible with God"*. That's what a humble virgin from Nazareth said upon hearing that she would be the human mother of the Lord's Christ. (Luke 1:37) So if I may be so audacious, I invite you to join me in storming the gates of heaven with prayer and beating down the doors to the throne room of God demanding to be heard over the next 3 weeks, 3 months, and 3 years, eager to see what it is that the Lord has in His storehouse for us, for our future, and for our service in this place to our God and our community.