



TRINITY CONNECTION

MARCH 25, 2022

Dear beloved of Trinity,

Many of you continue to ask about our daughter and family so I asked them to write an update for all of us. Thank you for your prayers. Phil and I appreciate our Trinity family.

Love, Deacon Christie

Svens In Slovakia - War in Ukraine Update

Greetings dear people of Trinity! We are writing to you from Bratislava, Slovakia. At Bratislava International Church our theme for Lent is 'Walking with Jesus: Repentance, Reconciliation, Restoration.' This theme was chosen before the war in Ukraine began and it has taken on a whole new meaning in these last four weeks. Not only is there need for repentance, reconciliation, and restoration with our Creator; but also with one another.

Someone once said, "Sometimes in the worst of times, you see the best in people." Despite how the world aches each day from more news of innocent lives being destroyed in Ukraine, we also see God at work in so many ways as a result of this war. We see people from around the world opening up their homes to Ukrainian refugees. We see donation centers overflowing with goods to be shipped to Ukraine or for refugees to pick up supplies as needed. We see free transportation offered for any Ukrainian refugees from the surrounding countries as they flee in search of safety. This is just a snapshot of the many other efforts we see from so many kind people. It seems the world is certainly walking with the people of Ukraine during these dark days, just like we believe Jesus is walking with them too.



We have been blessed to be able to buy goods and deliver them to donation centers. These donation centers put out new lists daily that call for items of greatest need. Kyle has volunteered at a donation center that organizes thousands of goods from clothing, to toiletries, to non-perishables and more. Some of these goods are shipped directly to Ukraine and other goods shared with refugees in our own community. Many of our



friends here have opened up their homes to refugee families, people they've never met but happily welcomed. Others in our congregation have paid for hotel rooms that serve as temporary housing for refugee families.

The main train station in Bratislava has an 'Info Point' setup for all the Ukrainian refugees arriving there. Ukrainians can travel for free on regional trains and other public transportation in all of the neighboring countries. Some refugees have attended worship with us and we have helped with putting some up in hotel rooms. Many are unsure of where they are going, or where they might want to settle, and are unsure of when and if they will be able to return to their home.

Once they claim refugee status/seek asylum in a country, they cannot leave that country. It is a big decision for refugees to make when they are already overwhelmed from fleeing their war torn country. Many are mothers with children and the elderly who have just left behind the men in their life; husbands, fathers, brothers, uncles, etc. These people are simply overwhelmed and exhausted. At the train station, they often collapse from pure exhaustion as they exit the trains. There is always a crisis team available to help with psychological and medical needs. At the Info Point, there are also people from the city office ready to offer assistance with housing, legal aid, and information about the city and the immigration process. A local cell phone company has even offered free SIM cards so refugees can use their cell phones.



There are two waiting rooms designated for the refugees; a family room and a general waiting room. In them are free microwave meals, coffee, tea, mattresses, blankets and more. The family room is mainly for mothers and children to use as they wait for their next train or need a place to spend the night. There are mattresses, travel cribs, high chairs, changing tables, toys, a TV with kids shows and movies, and couches. There are also free clothes, strollers and baby carriers for them to take if they need them. It is a helpful place of rest for these tired mothers and families.

Anna organized a group from church to clean, disinfect, and organize these waiting rooms. They watched as families came and went, finding hope in the excited faces of children when they saw all the toys. It seemed to be for them a sense of something familiar in an unfamiliar time and place. They were even able to play with the children, and give just a moment's break to their mothers. It is almost unbelievable for us to imagine what they are

going through, but then we witness it with our own eyes. The strength and resilience we see in these mothers is truly inspiring. The bravery of the men who stay behind to defend their country, their home, leaves us in awe. We've heard their stories first-hand and see them walking with Jesus in bold ways. But most of all, we see Jesus in them and their experience, and our call to walk with them.

As we journey through the rest of this Lenten season, we invite you to notice with us all the ways in which the Ukrainian people walk with and embody Jesus. Be bold in your own response to walk with and embody Jesus for those in need in your community too. And most of all, we invite you to join us in unceasing prayer for peace to rise from the ashes of this conflict as soon as possible. Pray with us that leaders may see reason and the extreme toll this is taking on so many innocent people. Thank you for your concern and prayers. Your support carries us through each day. Know that even though we do it 5,000 miles apart, we are walking with you through this trying time and praying for you every step of the way.



In Christ,

Rev. Kyle & Anna Svennungsen



Church Calendar

Monday, March 28

8:30 am: Preschool

Tuesday, March 29

6:30 am: Men's Breakfast

Wednesday, March 30

8:30 am: Preschool

5:15 pm: Lenten Supper

Confirmation Mentoring
(meal and worship)

6:30 pm: Worship

7:15 pm: KFC-5th Grade

High School Youth

Thursday, March 31

5:30 pm: TOPS

Friday, April 1

8:30 am: Preschool

Saturday, April 2

5:30 Annual Auction Supper

6:30 Annual Auction and Raffle

Sunday, April 3

8:00 am: Worship

9:15 am: Sunday School

2nd Grade Milestone

Adult Bible Study

10:30 am: Worship

Online Worship

11:45 am: New Member Orientation

Upcoming Important Dates

April 4: Blood Mobile

April 10: Palm Sunday

April 10: Welcome New Members Celebration

April 14, 6:30 pm: Maundy Thursday Worship

April 15, 6:30 pm: Good Friday Worship

April 17, 7:30, 9:00 & 10:30 am: Easter Worship

Attendance

Wednesday, March 16, 6:30 pm: 244

Sunday, March 20, 8:00 am: 66

10:30 am: 109

Church Finances

Week of March 20, 2022

Total Operating Cost: \$11,735

Actual Total Giving: **\$6,240**

Difference of: **\$5,495**

Total operating cost represents all expenses including staff costs, benevolences, supplies, outreach, and our mortgage payment. If you have questions regarding the budget, please contact Tommy Pollema at 321-3057.

Ways to Give

Online Giving: www.teatrinity.org/give

Text Giving: (605) 777-7223

Envelopes: In-person or
Mail to the church

March Globe Offering



Prayer Requests

- Jim Oltmanns
- Greg Myrmoe
- Steve Jelen's father Gene
- Sarah Hilmoe's uncle Fred Tidemann
- Jami Atkin's father Kevin Roth
- Shirley Oltmann's sister Linda Goulet
- Gordon & Dorothy Fritz's son Carl Fritz
- Deacon Christie's mother, Maxine
- Delmer Otten's mother, Delores Otten

Baptized and Set Free

Join us as we begin our Lenten season, our theme this year is Baptized and Set Free.

Wednesdays, March 30—April 6
Holden Evening Worship

Lent Supper: 5:15—6:15 pm
Worship: 6:30 pm



Annual Supper and Auction

Saturday, April 2
Meal: 5:30 pm
Auction: 6:30 pm

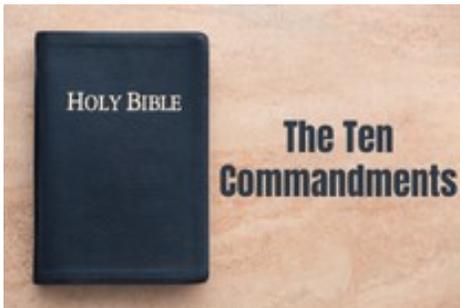
Join us for our annual supper followed by a live auction and raffle!
The money raised will be used for our upcoming \$15,000 flooring project.

2nd Grade Milestone

Join Deacon Christie to learn about the ten commandments!

Lesson #2: Sunday, April 3 at 9:15am

Celebration: Sunday, April 10 at 8:00 or 10:30 am



Trinity Lutheran Church Blood Drive

Monday, April 4
9:00 am—Noon
and
1:30—5 pm

We will be hosting a Blood Drive once again. The blood bank is looking for a big turnout to boost their low levels. If interested in giving, please call the church office to register.

New Member Orientation

Sunday, April 3
11:45 am
in the Fellowship Hall

Not a member? Interested in becoming a member?
Lunch will be served. Welcoming of new members will be held on April 10 at either 8:00 or 10:30 am worship.

Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 30 by calling the church office at 605-498-2343 or emailing info@teatrinity.org



Quilting Group

**Wednesday, April 6
9:00 am
in the Fellowship Hall**

Join us as we continue to work on putting more quilts together.
No sewing or quilting experience is necessary!

Quilters



East River Foster Parent Network Clothing Drive

Not only is East River Foster Parent Network this month's Globe offering recipient but Trinity Lutheran's own Lance Spracklin, is hosting a clothing drive for their clothing closet in Sioux Falls . This is part of Lance's senior project at Tea Area High School. He will be collecting donations through out the month of March. To see a list of needed items or to donate items, there is a collection bin located in the Gathering Space. For more information, you may call the church office.

You can help!

When you watch the news, does your heart break at the sights of the Ukrainian refugees? Do you wonder what you can do living half a world away? Well, there is a way to directly help them. There are Lutheran agencies who have been on the ground in Ukraine and surrounding countries giving aid. They are set up to receive monetary gifts. It is easy and quick to help our neighbors.

To give contact:

Lutheran Disaster Response Eastern Europe Crisis Response
Lutheran World Relief Ukraine Response (Gifts up to \$258,000 will be matched)

Faith in Action: A few members received homemade soup and bread



Bennett & Luella
DeJong



Calvin Schriever



George Snyder



Bob Nesseim