

## ***Giving to The Ministries of Trinity Lutheran Church***

### ***Giving Generously as an Act of Faith...***

*When we share an offering with the Church we are, in fact, performing an Act of Faith ~ A wonderful Act of Faith ~ which responds to the gifts of Life and Salvation which our Lord pours into our lives so freely and graciously.*

*Moved by the Holy Spirit, our offerings acknowledge the Good Gifts which God has so abundantly given us, and our gifts to the Church are, therefore, a responsive “thanks-giving” in gratitude for what we have first received.*



*When we share offerings, we are participating in the proclamation of the Gospel and sharing with Christ in his sacrificial and charitable works of compassion and mercy; works which he has begun and which he has called us, his people, to continue in his name.*

*Through the ages, the generosity of Christians has been instrumental in sharing the story of Jesus Christ, gathering His people together to share this Good News, and stirring us to care for our neighbors and all the realms of God's wonderful creation.*

*Parishioners and friends of Trinity have given generously ~ as an act of Faith ~ and shared in the congregation's ministries in remarkable ways since the congregation's historic beginnings in 1769. Thank you, once again, for the generosity you have shown to these ministries!*

*As we consider the current and future ministries of the Church, we trust and pray that this same spirit of generosity will continue to dwell among us and stir us to provide the means and resources to empower a faithful witness to the redeeming grace and mercy of God.*

*This brochure highlights some of the ministries which Trinity shares with parishioners and neighbors ~ ministries which you are invited to support through your prayers and financial gifts.*

*Please contact the Church Office with any questions or special desires if we may be of assistance.*

### ***Regular Parish Ministries***

*Providing for the ongoing, day-to-day ministries of the Church is the starting point for the faithful stewardship of Trinity's parishioners and friends.*

*These ministries provide for the work of our pastors who preach the Gospel, lead us in worship, oversee our educational ministries, baptize and confirm our children, marry and bury our loved ones, provide pastoral support in difficult times, and give leadership and guidance to the many aspects of our congregation's life; the care and upkeep of our facilities; the ministries of our Children's Ministries Coordinator and Musicians; financial resources for our Fellowship Ministries; and resources to support the work of the Allegheny Synod of the ELCA and other Lutheran and Ecumenical partners.*

*Parishioners and Friends may make offerings using the weekly envelopes provided by the church or may choose to establish “automated” offerings from their personal checking or savings accounts. “Simply Giving”, administered by Vanco Payment Solutions, can help with this option. Please contact the Church Office for any needed assistance.*

*Tithing, the practice of sharing offerings with the Church which represent a regular percentage of our income - often quoted at 10% - is a long-standing tradition and practice among faithful Christians. Such a practice becomes a spiritual discipline which demonstrates our devotion to the ministries of the Church and to the needs of those whom we are called to serve. It can also be a bit of a “safe-guard” against our human inclinations toward greed and untempered self-indulgence.*

### **TLC Memorial Fund**

*The TLC Memorial Fund gathers gifts, small and large, which are often shared in memory or honor of a loved one to mark a special occasion.*

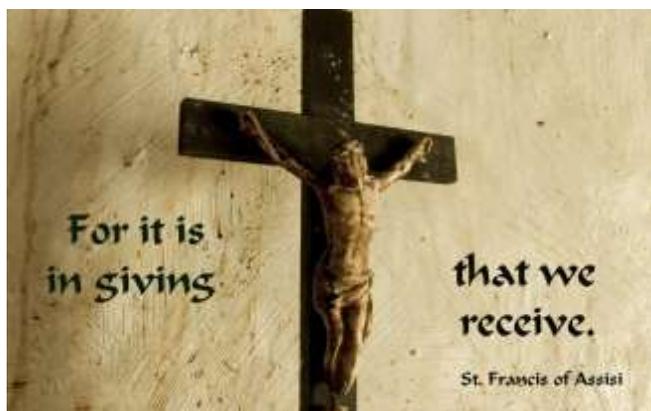
*This Fund also receives gifts which are made by neighbors and friends, at the request of families, at the time of the death of a loved-one.*

*These pooled-resources are used to advance new and unique ministries of the Congregation as opportunities and needs arise.*

### **TLC Principal Reserve Capital Endowment**

*The TLC Principal Reserve Capital Endowment enables donors to share gifts with the congregation that are invested to produce earnings, in perpetuity, to support unique building projects and other special ministry opportunities. A gift to this fund enables the donor to support the ministries of Trinity through the generations of our children and grandchildren and those yet to come who will follow in our steps.*

*As with the Memorial Fund, gifts may be shared as a memorial or honorarium to a friend or loved-one to recognize a special occasion.*



### **Tome Ministry Fund**

*The Tome Ministry Fund was established to recognize the 36 year pastorate of The Rev. Richard L. Tome, and his wife, Bee Jay, on their retirement, in 1989.*

*All gifts received are invested in the Fund's principal endowment and the earnings provide grants which are awarded to ministries and projects which will "enhance a Lutheran witness in, but not limited to, Bedford County".*

*Since its origin in 1990, the Tome Ministry Fund has shared in excess of \$24,000 to encourage a wide variety of local, regional, and global ministries and needs.*

### **TLC Music Endowment**

*The TLC Music Endowment was established in 2008 through a generous gift from the estate of Dr. Ray Widmann to advance the music ministries of Trinity, especially our Vocal and Bell Choirs, special musicians for Festival Liturgies, and maintenance and improvements of our 1924 Moller Pipe Organ (Opus 3850 / 1970 R-377).*

*Gifts to this Fund are added to the principal of the endowment to generate earnings for this purpose, in perpetuity.*

### **TLC Paul Schendel Memorial Scholarship**

*The TLC Paul Schendel Memorial Scholarship recognizes a graduating High School Senior's exemplary participation in the life and ministries of Trinity, by awarding an annual scholarship to assist with his or her post-high school educational pursuits.*

*The Scholarship was established in memory of Paul B. Schendel, who passed away in 2006, following his Freshman Year at Bedford High School. Paul was active in the worship, learning, fellowship and service ministries of Trinity.*

*Gifts to the Scholarship Fund are added to the principal of the Endowment to generate income and provide for the annual award, in perpetuity.*

### **Special Charitable Designations...**

Trinity is happy to encourage and assist parishioners and friends in their support of special charities which we view as “partners”. These include numerous local, regional, and global charities, such as our Free Community Dinner Ministry, Winter Clothing Ministry for local Children, our local Food Pantry, the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, Lutheran Disaster Response, Camp Sequanota and others.

A check or gift, shared with Trinity, can be designated to the direct support of one of these ministries. Please check with the Church Office with any questions to ensure your gift is directed in accordance with your intentions.



### **Please also consider...**

... Naming Trinity, along with family members or other institutions, as an inheritor of some portion of your estate. This is often designated in your will.

... Naming Trinity, along with family members or other institutions, as a beneficiary of some portion of your life insurance policies or annuity products. This is easily accomplished by contacting the issuing insurance or banking institution.

... Gifting assets such as stocks, investments or real estate to Trinity. This can often be accomplished with advantageous tax benefits to the donor.

... Learning about irrevocable charitable gifts and making a gift to Trinity, at the present time, while taking advantage of potentially beneficial tax incentives.

*Please speak with your attorney or tax advisor  
to learn more about these possibilities  
and to be sure your wishes  
are documented and executed appropriately.*

*If you prefer, you can receive free, professional and confidential advice from a representative of the ELCA'S Mission Investment Fund. Please contact the Church Office for current contact information.*

### **In Closing...**

Biblical scholars note that 2/3rds of the Lord's parables and sayings have something to say about the way his followers are to manage their wealth and their possessions. Instead of seeing life as a challenge to acquire and amass belongings, Jesus invites them (us!) to thankfully receive the blessings that are entrusted to us and to generously share them with our neighbors. Generosity - modeling the self-emptying love of Christ - is a fitting witness for Christians to share with the world - a world which is searching for hope, reassurance, and life that is filled with purpose and meaning.

