

# Trinity News

## June 2021

Office: 842-6981

Email: office@trinitybenson.org

Web Page: trinitybenson.org

Pastor: Art Wiese

Secretary: Pam Anderson

Council President: Brian McNeill

Custodians: Karen Nelson

## Mission

### Statement

**Grow Faith,  
Serve God,  
Love Others**



### Inside this issue:

Pastor Column	1
Council Minutes	2
Financial Report	3
Treasurers Report	4
June Servers	5
Attendance	5
Statistical change	5
1st Communion	5
Calendar	6
Minutes cont.	7
Birthdays	7
Announcements	8
VBS	9
Shout Out	9
Thank You	9

**- "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." – (Philippians 4:8)**

### Dear People of Trinity,

I love Paul's letter to the Philippians. Can you tell? He had great affection for the people who lived there. I very much enjoyed being there when I first travelled to Greece and walked in Paul's footsteps. Much happened in that place. And the people were enthusiastic and generous in their support of Paul's ministry and projects. I feel much the same way about all of you, the people of Benson.

I want to take this opportunity to say, "Thank You!" Thank you for your support. Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for your enthusiasm. Much has happened in the past seven years. Most of it has been good. Some of it has been difficult. A few bits have been downright hard. But, together, I think we have come through all of it with flying colors. I hope you do too!

This past Sunday (May 23<sup>rd</sup>) was delightful. It was so much fun to have the sanctuary filled with people, to celebrate with our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders as they received their first communion, and to recognize Sam Grussing as our lone High School graduate. And it was wonderful to see peoples' faces. It's been a long, long time since we've been able to do that in church. By the way, you all looked great! We have weathered the majority of the storm of Covid-19 and we can now see the light at the end of the tunnel. Thank God for all of that!

Brenda and I don't have a lot of immediate plans. We will be taking ten days off at the beginning of June, our first extended time away in nearly two years. We will be attending three family events in Wisconsin and seeing some people we haven't been able to be with in more than a year. Then we'll be back to celebrate the last two weeks of our time with all of you! Beyond that, we have a family wedding to attend this summer and we'll be looking to spend more time with grandchildren. There are also several projects around home that I will finally have time to finish up.

Beyond that, we hope to do some travelling. We are hoping to visit Australia, once our friends are able to move back home and the borders are opened to visitors. I dream of driving through western Canada on our way to Alaska and we talk about visiting Hawaii again, as well as seeing many of the places in the United States, where we have not yet been or we would like to visit again. And I have promised that we will spend time on the boat and actually learn how to catch fish! I'm sure that there will also be surprises along the way.

Continued page 8

# Trinity Lutheran Church Council Minutes May 5, 2021

## Grow Faith, Serve God, Love Others

**Welcome** by President Brian McNeill at 7:02 PM. Members present were Jason Anderson, Adam Kolander, Toni Lindstrom, Robert Neuman, Diane Schuerman, Maureen Erdman, Jason Heinzig and Jodee Erickson. Also present were Pastor Art and Treasurer Bill Hoberg.

**Devotions** by Pastor Art from Philippians, Chapter 4, on the reflective letter of Paul to the congregation he has enjoyed. Pastor Art related it the past seven years that he has been with us. He said we've done good things together, some hard work together and he feels blessed to have been with our congregation over the years.

**Pastor's Report** – Pastor Art made numerous parish visits by phone, computer, text and email plus 14 in-person visits. There was one hospital visit by phone. Pastor Art held four in person confirmation classes, led four in person Sunday worship services by Zoom, four posted to Facebook and four radio broadcasts. There was one baptism for Lexi Lynn Kolander on May 2, 2021. There were six confirmations for Blake Brehmer, Elise Duncan, Logan Hadfield, Jack Helgenset, Mason Moe and Logan Schauer on May 2, 2021. There were no weddings. There was one funeral for Merlin Simonson on April 24, 2021. There were no counseling sessions. He took two days of vacation and no sick leave.

The proposed schedule for the SWMN Synod Assembly is as follows: June 6 - 2:00-4:00 and 6:30-8:30 June 11 - 2:00- 4:00 and 6:30-8:30 June 12 - 9:30-1:00 **Practice Tech Sessions** Tuesday, May 25 - 7:00 PM Wednesday, May 26 - 4:00 PM Wednesday, May 26 - 7:00 PM **Proposed Budget/ Compensation Guidelines Forums** Tuesday, May 18 - 7:00 PM

Wednesday, May 19 - 7:00 PM Pastor Art began a communion preparation class on May 5 with a possibility of twelve fifth and sixth grade students. Ten attended. Because of Covid-19, classes were not held last year, so he is teaching two years together. Classes will continue on May 12 and 19. Students will be ready to participate in communion on Sunday, May 23. We will honor our one graduating senior, Sam Grussing, Sunday May 23. Pastor Art plans to be on vacation June 3 - 13. He and Brenda will be attending the Synod Assembly that will be conducted remotely, online during this time. Our worship leader and guest preachers will be Pastor Gary Mills on June 6 and Gary Meyer on June 13.

**Additions to the Agenda** – Shout Out to Brenda Wiese, Becky Woitte and Marlene Giese for all they have done to enhance our worship services.

### Reports

**Secretary Jodee Erickson** – The April minutes were reviewed and approved by email.

**Financial Secretary Pam Anderson** – Motion by Toni to approve with second by Diane. Motion carried.

**Treasurer Bill Hoberg** – April income was \$14,695.04 and expenses were \$15,886.82. Checking account balance as of April 30, 2021 was \$28,446.47. Motion by Jason H. to approve with second by Adam. Motion carried.

### Committee Reports

**Board of Education and Youth** – Did not meet.

**Outreach and Community Relations (B.A.C.K. pack program)** – Did not meet.

**Property and Grounds** – The programmable thermostat in the office fails to work. Craig's is working on a quote.

Bids for tree removal and tree

trimming in the parsonage yard were submitted by A.L.T. Tree Service as follows: Tree Trimming with clean up – Front yard \$800.00 and back yard \$150.00 for a total of \$950.00 Tree and stump removal with clean up - #1 ash tree (near driveway) \$1,850.00, #2 maple tree (near street) \$1,400.00, #3 arborvitae (by house) \$150.00, #4 additional trimming of ash trees in the backyard \$300.00, #5 Tree by the church which has a rotted center \$700.00 for a total of \$4,400.00.

There is also a birch tree on the church grounds and a volunteer tree near the parsonage that should be looked at for removal. Getting a price comparison is an option. The decision on tree removal and trimming was tabled until the next meeting.

A bid was also submitted for gutters and downspouts on the church and parsonage buildings from Lakes Area Seamless Gutters in the amount of \$3,212.00. The gutters would be on the East and West sides of the parsonage, the parsonage garage and the church building. There are two more bids to be submitted on this project. The decision was tabled until the other bids are received.

**Stewardship and Finance** – Did not meet.

**Worship and Music** – Did not meet.

**Transition Team** – Profile Update to be addressed in New Business

**Shout Outs** – Ron and Becky Woitte for readying the confirmation gowns for Confirmation Sunday, May 2. Brenda Wiese, Becky Woitte and Marlene Giese for all they have done to enhance our worship services.

**Old Business** – None

**New Business** - Release of members – Greg and Kathy Tweten and David Tweten to Zion Lutheran Church, Appleton, Minnesota and Aaron Lindahl to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota -

Continued page 7

## APRIL 2021 INCOME

ENVELOPE OFFERING	\$ 12,666.00
LOOSE	\$ 125.00
INTIAL	\$ 2.00
HUNGER	\$ 25.00
THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS	\$ 249.00
FOODSHELF	\$ 425.00
MISCELLANEOUS (Lilly's & Refund)	\$ 11.04
SYNOD SALARY	\$ 192.00
BANK OF THE WEST (food shelf)	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>
APRIL INCOME	<u>\$ 14,695.04</u>

### INCOME COMPARISON

YTD 2021	\$ 59,627.74
YTD 2020 (1,000.00 to Team Promise, 1,000 to WELCA, 2500 from WELCA for lighting, 3,500 Bank of the West, 3,000 roofing, 500 hospital remembrance project, 3,492 team promise, PPP grant 20,800)	\$ 81,607.34

### MEMORIALS/GIFTS RECEIVED

In Memory of John McNeill	
\$ 25.00	World Hunger
In Memory of Marcia Slaughter	
\$ 25.00	Memorial Fund

#### SAVINGS ACCOUNT (First Security)

ALTAR FUND	\$ 1,079.91
BUILDING FUND	\$ 303.00
HANDBELLS	\$ 793.73
LANDSCAPING	\$ 2,000.00
LIBRARY FUND	\$ 808.00
MEMORIAL FUND (+25.00)	\$ 2,305.08
MUSIC FUND	\$ 542.94
PARKING LOT FUND	\$ 3,258.50
ROCK	\$ 163.00
SUNDAY SCHOOL/VBS FUND	\$ 2,809.51
TEAM PROMISE	\$ 2,604.00
VIDEO PROJECT	\$ 1,607.21
INTEREST	<u>\$ 36.81</u>
BALANCE TO DATE	<u>\$ 18,311.69</u>

#### SAVINGS ACCOUNT (Bank of the West)

BUILDING & GROUNDS	
Furniture	\$ 11,059.85
COMMUNITY OUTREACH	
Global	\$ 10,726.52
Local (-1,000 Food Shelf)	\$ 10,423.11
EMERGENCY	\$ 21,345.59
MARKETING	\$ 3,196.59
TRANSPORTAION	\$ 14,170.56
INTEREST (+ 9.24)	<u>\$ 916.38</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 71,839.60</u>

P ANDERSON, F. SEC.

## Income & Expense- Budget vs. Actual

### January through April 2021

	Jan - Apr 21	Budget	% of Budget
<b>Income</b>			
Offering	54,771.70		
Transfers	1,750.00		
Other	3,206.04		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>59,727.74</b>		
<b>Expense</b>			
<b>Regular Expenses</b>			
<b>Payroll Expenses</b>			
Organist	2,003.16	4,145.70	48.3%
Secretary	3,510.72	10,812.00	32.5%
Custodian	741.38	5,233.20	14.2%
Payroll Taxes Church	432.63	1,544.60	28.0%
Pastor	21,973.68	65,921.00	33.3%
Mileage	0.00	2,000.00	0.0%
Pension and Related	4,636.40	13,909.20	33.3%
Health Savings Account	0.00	400.00	0.0%
Pulpit Supply	0.00	480.00	0.0%
Continuing Education	0.00	750.00	0.0%
<b>Total Payroll Expenses</b>	<b>33,297.97</b>	<b>105,195.70</b>	<b>31.7%</b>
<b>Utilities</b>			
Light & Water Parsonage	434.77	1,300.00	33.4%
Light & Water Church	1,240.63	4,500.00	27.6%
Telephone Church	547.84	1,650.00	33.2%
Fuel Parsonage	190.37	600.00	31.7%
Fuel Church	1,917.37	4,000.00	47.9%
Garbage	163.18	700.00	23.3%
<b>Total Utilities</b>	<b>4,494.16</b>	<b>12,750.00</b>	<b>35.2%</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>			
Conference Dues & Registration	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
Mowing and Related	0.00	1,700.00	0.0%
Snow Removal and Related	656.25	1,750.00	37.5%
<b>Commitment</b>			
Radio Ministry	770.00	1,820.00	42.3%
Southwest Minnesota Synod	7,000.00	7,000.00	100.0%
Bible Camp	1,500.00	1,500.00	100.0%
<b>Total Commitment</b>	<b>9,270.00</b>	<b>10,320.00</b>	<b>89.8%</b>
Library	0.00	300.00	0.0%
Insurance	5,970.00	5,700.00	104.7%
Workmans Comp Insurance	0.00	1,200.00	0.0%
Church Supplies	1,512.58	7,000.00	21.6%
Sunday School Supplies	50.83	1,000.00	5.1%
Music	0.00	900.00	0.0%
Postage	310.00	950.00	32.6%
Maintenance	2,455.74	6,500.00	37.8%
R.O.C.K. Ministries	18.00	200.00	9.0%
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>20,243.40</b>	<b>38,520.00</b>	<b>52.6%</b>
<b>Total Regular Expenses</b>	<b>58,035.53</b>	<b>156,465.70</b>	<b>37.1%</b>
<b>Misc Exp (Transfers)</b>			
TEAM PROMISE	325.00		
Food Shelf	1,625.00		
Missions	1,500.00		
Transfer for Flowers	103.82		
<b>Total Misc Exp (Transfers)</b>	<b>3,553.82</b>		
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>61,589.35</b>	<b>156,465.70</b>	<b>39.4%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-1,861.61</b>	<b>-156,465.70</b>	<b>1.2%</b>

Checking Balance 4-30-2021 28,446<sup>47</sup>

# Members Serving in the Month of June

## Usher

Jason Anderson  
Rick Hoffman  
Kelly Lindblad  
Greg Gunderson

## Zoom host:

6/06 Diane Schuerman  
6/13 Diane Schuerman  
6/20  
6/27

## Computer operator:

6/06 Becky Woitte  
6/13  
6/20  
6/27 Becky Woitte

## Lectors

6/06 Linda Lysen  
6/13  
6/20 Miriam Lindblad  
6/27 Marlys Boone

## Slide preparer:

6/06 Shelly Mikkelson  
6/13 Marlene Giese  
6/20 Laura Rear  
6/27 Becky Woitte

## Camera & Sound operator

6/06 Nathan Pederson  
6/13  
6/20  
6/27

## Altar Guild

Carolyn Rear



ZOOM ATTENDANCE			
Date	In Person	Zoom	Communed
5/02	88	25	80
5/09	34	21	45
5/16	38	11	35
5/23	89		83

## MAY STATISTICAL CHANGE

### Baptism

5/05 Lexi Lynn Kolander  
daughter of Adam & Holly  
Kolander  
5/16 Maggie Jo Anderson  
daughter of Jeffery &  
Jessica Anderson

### Transfer Out:

-Greg & Kathy Tweten, Zion  
Lutheran Appleton  
-Brandon Tweten, Zion  
Lutheran Appleton  
-Aaron Lindahl, Gloria Dei  
Redwood Falls, MN





## First Communion



Congratulating and praying God's blessings upon the fifth & sixth grade students who have completed their communion preparation class. They were able participate with Communion Sunday, May 23, 2021. They are:

<i>Paige Moe</i>	<i>Connor Hadfield</i>
<i>Noah Nichols</i>	<i>Anthony Aeikens</i>
<i>Sarah Dehne</i>	<i>Kaida Helgenset</i>
<i>McKenna Molden</i>	<i>Addison Schauer</i>
<i>Haden Thole</i>	<i>Dylan Wrobleski</i>



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>June 2021</h1>						
6 8:30-KBMO AM 1290 9:00-In Person & Zoom Worship	7	8 	9	10 9:00-Quilting	11	12
13 8:30-KBMO AM 1290 9:00-In Person & Zoom Worship	14 	15	16	17 9:00-Quilting	18	19
20 Fathers Day 8:30-KBMO AM 1290 9:00-In Person & Zoom Worship	21 July newsletter articles due	22	23 	24 9:00-Quilting	25	26
27 8:30-KBMO AM 1290 9:00-In Person & Zoom Worship 10:00-Pastor Art Retirement Celebration	28	29 8:30-volunteers for newsletter	30			

## Council Minutes from page 2

Motion by Robert to approve the release of named members with second by Toni. Motion carried.

Acceptance of a memorial gift of \$7,566.02 from Pastor Magnus "Bud" Peterson estate – Distribution of this gift per the approved gift policy is as follows: First donation of \$7,566.02 is 10% to Local Charitable Organization \$756.60. Remainder of \$6,809.42 divided: 35% \$2,383.30 Building and Grounds; 25% \$1,702.36 Community Outreach; 15% \$1,021.41 Endowment; 10% \$680.94 Transportation; 10% \$680.94 Emergency Fund; 5% \$340.47 Marketing  
The Transition Team has completed the profile update of the congregation to be sent to SWMN Synod. Motion by Jason H. to approve the completed profile with second by Maureen. Motion carried.

The discontinuation of Zoom services was discussed. It has been a successful way to worship when we could not gather in person. It was noted that the number of those logging on each Sunday has been decreasing. The Zoom service will be phased out at some point, possibly by

the end of June. The possibility of using Facebook live is an option. Radio broadcasts and Facebook will continue to be available to members. The Call Committee process was discussed. It was suggested that a youth member be added to the list of those who have volunteered to be on the committee. A total of seven members are needed. Any members who would like to be on this committee should contact Brian by Monday, May 17. A special meeting of the congregation will be on Sunday, May 23, 2021 following worship services to elect the call committee members from the list of names submitted. Those attending in person and on Zoom will be able to vote. This notice will be included in the Friday announcements beginning Friday, May 7.

**Announcements** - June newsletter articles are due May 18. The next Church Council Meeting will be June 2, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

**Adjourned** by President Brian at 8:25 PM

**Closed with the Lord's Prayer**  
Respectfully submitted,  
Jodee Erickson, Council Secretary

## June

### Birthdays

- 1 Emily Hoffman
- 2 Tyler Hadfield
- 2 Chad Schwarz
- 4 Isaiah Hamblin
- 5 Brock Duncan
- 5 Shelby Flegel
- 6 Debra Beyer
- 6 Grant Hoffman
- 8 Chelsey Goff
- 11 Stefanie Overlie
- 13 Jeremy Michaelson
- 16 Michaela Grussing
- 17 Sarah Dehne
- 18 Carl Ahrndt
- 18 Jason Anderson
- 18 Stephanie Heinzig
- 21 Renee Helgense
- 22 Gavin Olson
- 22 Sam Petersen
- 24 Pam Anderson
- 26 Connor Hadfield
- 27 Nathan Pederson
- 28 Teresa Pettit
- 29 Rebecca Girard
- 30 Lois Torgerson
- 30 Jennifer Wroblewski



**Dear members** of Trinity Lutheran Church, With decisions being updated daily with COVID restrictions it can be challenging to know what decisions and actions to take. Our priority is the safety of our members. That will always be part of the decision-making process. To keep our members safe, we would ask those who are not fully vaccinated to continue to wear masks and social distance. If you are fully vaccinated and want to wear a mask that is your decision. For the time being, we would also ask to provide a little space with your pew neighbor as you start to come back to worship service. We would also ask as Christians to honor each person's decision on mask-wearing and rejoice as we return for the privilege of worshipping our Lord and Savior. Also, patience as we slowly transition back to our regular mode of worship. We are excited for you to return to Trinity Lutheran Church and worship together again as a church family.

## Pastor Column continued from page 1

Am I done with being a pastor? Probably not. There is great need in our synod for preachers who can fill in on a Sunday morning, so those who are regularly called can take some time off, and there is serious need for pastors who can do short stints as interim ministers. After a long rest, I may be willing to take on one of those challenges. Brenda has talked about wanting to continue her social work role as a volunteer in one setting or another. In addition, my service to our synod as a "conference minister" continues to the end of August. Beyond that, it is up to the newly-elected bishop as to whether that might be continued or not.

**College Graduates:** Please let the church office know of those who have/and or will graduate from college (December 2020 & this spring). Please let us know details: where, degree, major and if you have future plans.



As he approaches the end of his final term, Bishop Jon has said that his goal is to finish strong by "running through the finish line and hand-ing off the baton to the new bishop with the synod in the best shape possible." I think that is a worthy goal. I know you are a healthier con-gregation now than you were seven years ago, and I am ready to give you my highest recommendation, when your next pastoral candidate calls to ask my opinion about whether to accept your call. When I did that, your interim at the time, Pastor Paul Idstrom, said Trinity would be "a plum" call. He was right, as was the little voice that once whispered in my ear, "this would be a great place to do ministry." Thanks so much for everything you have done in the past seven years!

Peace Be with You, **Pastor Art**

### **WE NEED YOU!!**

Members of Trinity Lutheran Church! We need you! You are an important part of our church membership. Your service and answering the call is more important than ever!! We need people to serve as:

- Lectors - Please say YES when you receive a call to read a lesson on a Sunday morning!
- Tech People - We need people to learn some of the technology that enhances our church service
- Sunday School Teachers - we need people to lead our children in Sunday school
- We will need cleaners - The parsonage will need a spring cleaning before we start showing new pastors the parsonage
- We will need choir members and musicians for our music programs
- We NEED You! We need you to fill the pews again and listen to the Good News!

There is much, much, MORE!

Please be ready and able to jump in and help when and where it is needed. It takes all of us to have a vibrant church.

TLC President  
Brian McNeill



## SHOUT OUT

The Trinity Council would like to recognize members who give of their time and talents to our church. Each month we will feature one or two volunteers and/or groups of volunteers in this area of the newsletter. If there is someone you would like to recognize, please contact Toni Lindstrom in person or by email [lindstrom.toni@gmail.com](mailto:lindstrom.toni@gmail.com) and tell us what they are doing. We are not able to recognize everyone all at once, but you could be next.

This month we give a big hardy **Shout Out** to:

**Ron and Becky Woitte** for all you did so that the confirmation gowns were ready for Confirmation Sunday. Your work was appreciated.

**Brenda Wiese, Becky Woitte and Marlene Giese** for your countless hours of volunteer service enhancing our worship experience at Trinity. Your time, effort and tenacity has been a blessing to our Trinity family.

-Team Trinity



## Celebrating Pastor Arts Retirement

We will be celebrating Pastor Arts retirement following services on June 27<sup>th</sup>. We would like to take time and thank Pastor Art and Brenda for being a part of the Trinity family for the last seven years. Everyone is welcome to come and wish Pastor Art a happy retirement.

## Vacation Bible School

Hello Families!

Trinity is having a one-night Vacation Bible School on Wednesday, June 2, after school to 5:30.

There will be stories, games, crafts and pizza. We hope your kids can come!

Please RSVP by May 26, to Jamie at 320.314.2873, so we can line up rides.

Even if it is after this date and you decide to, please still contact me, it should be no problem.

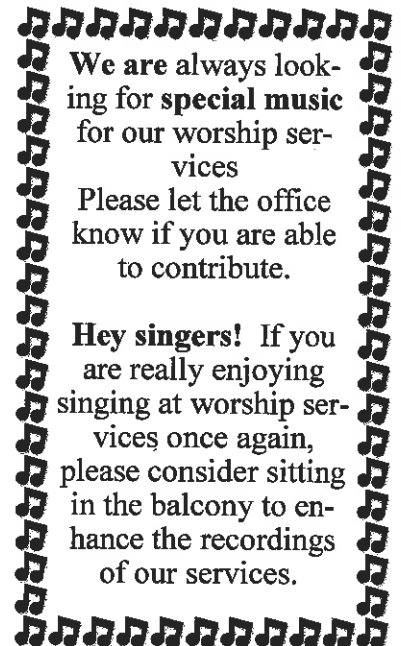
Any parents able to help with driving would be appreciated.

Our theme is "Let's Talk Superheroes!"

Parents are invited for the pizza party at 5:15.

## Thank you notes

- Thank you all for supporting the Prairie 5 food shelf during March. Swift County topped the cash donations at \$40,159.19 and 2,489 pounds of food. Total contributions from the five-county area were \$100,613.71 and 7618 pounds of food. We are fortunate to have so many people willing to give and help others.
- Trinity, Thank you for the beautiful baptism ceremony and gifts for Lexi. The quilt and medallion will be timeless keepsakes and the rose was beautiful for centerpiece at baptism celebration. We are glad to be a part of the Trinity family! Thank you, Adam, Holly, Ella & Lexi Kolander



We are always looking for special music for our worship services. Please let the office know if you are able to contribute.

**Hey singers!** If you are really enjoying singing at worship services once again, please consider sitting in the balcony to enhance the recordings of our services.

Trinity Lutheran Church

700 Nevada Ave  
Benson, MN 56215

Phone: 320-842-6981  
Email: [office@trinitybenson.org](mailto:office@trinitybenson.org)  
Web Page: [trinitybenson.org](http://trinitybenson.org)

ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED

## ***Trinity 2021 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE***



### **Samuel Mark Grussing**

Bethel University  
Majoring in Pre-Law

#### **BIBLE VERSE**

*Be strong and bold;  
have no fear or dread of them,  
because it is the Lord your God  
who goes with you;  
he will not fail you or forsake you.”  
Deuteronomy 31:6*

The congregations is cordially invited to Sam's Graduation open house:  
Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup> 4-7pm at his home