

Realm Communication, November 18, 2021

Update from TSA Church Council

To the TSA Congregation.... Your Council met on November 16, our regular monthly meeting.

Here are a few highlights from our meeting:

* **Covid related decisions** – In keeping with Province of Ontario requirements and Public Health advice, Council established the following Policy: **“Any meeting in Trinity-St. Andrew’s of 25 or more people, that is not a church service, must implement a vaccine passport system covering all who attend the meeting”**. The person who organized the meeting is responsible for ensuring that vaccine passports are checked. Public health measures requiring everyone to be masked and to observe social distancing protocols are still in effect for all who enter our building. The Thrift Shop and Treats & Treasures are considered retail and so customers do not require vaccine passports but must abide by mask and spacing requirements. And until further notice, we will continue to **not** allow receptions (funeral, wedding etc) or fellowship in Stewart Hall due to the high risk of exposure.

* **Upcoming Sunday Services:**

* November 21 – our next communion.

* December 5 – “White Gift Sunday”. This year donations will go to the Angel Tree operated by the Food Bank which provides Christmas gifts to children in need.

* December 19 – Carols and Lessons.

* December 21 – Blue Christmas Service – 7pm, online only in partnership with St. James Lutheran and Admaston Pastoral Charge.

* December 24 –Christmas Eve Service – 7pm, in-person & online. Communion.

* December 26 – Boxing Day Service – online only in partnership with Admaston.

* **Fundraising** – Planning is well underway for "Treats and Treasures", November 27 and December 4. Information in Church bulletin. Call out for candy and baking starts this week.

Council is reviewing fundraising efforts carried out by TSA volunteers with respect to funds raised, number of volunteers required, safety or other concerns, timing throughout the year and positive fellowship experience for volunteers and attendees. More on that over the next few months.

* **Food Bank Drive** – in conjunction with St. James Lutheran, we raised \$2905 which was presented to the Food Bank.

* **Thrift Shop – Q3** - \$17,800 was given to TSA and \$1780 to Teachers Against Poverty. Amazing results. Thanks to all who donate their time and goods.

* **2022 Budget** – The draft 2022 budget put forward by the Finance Committee was approved by Council to go the Annual General Meeting (tentatively April 24th) for congregational approval.

* **Finances** – giving continues to be down slightly from 2020, fundraising and donations for space usage up slightly. Expenses are as expected, a little lower than budgeted amounts. To October 31 our deficit was ~\$27,000 ... less than this time last year and the Q3 Thrift Shop revenue hadn't been included. So, our deficit is about as we expected at this point in the year!

2021 Goals – Council reviewed progress. As you may (or may not) remember, Council set 7 Goals for 2021. And we have been working towards these. Covid has certainly slowed us down on what we had hoped to accomplish, but we have made progress. These will be reported in the 2021 Annual Report and at our Annual General Meeting. Several goals will need to be carried over into 2022.

Our next Council meeting will be January 18 unless one is needed sooner. If you have a concern, thought or suggestion for Council ... call the office and leave a message.

With thanks,

Rev. James Murray

Judy Ryan for TSA Council