

**"That you, being rooted  
and grounded in love,  
may have strength  
to ...know the love of  
Christ."**

**Ephesians 3:17b-19**



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### “Grasping and Knowing God’s Love”

**Ephesians 3:17-19** *And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp **how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ**, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

Wow, what a prayer! What would it look like to have a full understanding of “how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ?” I often get caught in nostalgic moments that remind me how God has shown His love throughout my life. I go back to my Sunday mornings growing up and how insistent my mom was that we go to Church every week, rain or shine, stomach ache or laziness, developing my need for regular spiritual renewal even though I didn’t think it was important at the time. And at the age of 18, after leaving home and heading to The University of Texas with 50,000 other college age kids and all of the temptations and opportunities to create a path apart from God, He led me to an Intersarsity Christian Fellowship worship event the first week of school that transformed my ideas of God and blessed me with Christian friendships that I cherish today. Most importantly, God used Intersarsity to help me meet Sarah Martin, this God-fearing woman from Louisiana, whom I later married and am blessed to run alongside in the race of life.

In 2004, God decided that he was going to use Abraham’s example on my heart, and I needed to pack up my things in Austin, Texas and head to Baton Rouge. As described in Hebrews 11:8, “By faith Abraham, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.” Yes, this pretty much summed up my assessment at the time. I was in an unfamiliar place, with no burnt orange anywhere to be found, just this odd combination of purple and gold. However, God once again demonstrated His love through a community at Trinity Lutheran Church that we have cherished ever since moving here.

We are so excited to discover how God will show His love at Trinity Oaks as an opportunity to expand His Kingdom. These plans are also very personal to our family as it is a continuation of a ministry of Sarah’s great-grandfather, Rev. Gustav Gatzke. Rev. Gatzke took a similar leap of faith to expand God’s Kingdom and became pastor of First Lutheran Church in 1921, just 5 years after the formation of the church in 1916.

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First Lutheran Church was located at Florida Boulevard and 16<sup>th</sup> Street. The city limits at the time were at 19<sup>th</sup> Street! Rev. Gatzke's service to First Lutheran Church and the greater Baton Rouge area lasted 41 years. At the time of Pastor Gatzke's installation, there were 30 communicant members. In 1957, a Christian Day School was formed at First Lutheran with a single Kindergarten Class. This started an education ministry to the children of Baton Rouge which has since become Baton Rouge Lutheran School, a thriving school that teaches kids about Jesus.

Looking back, it is amazing to see how God started with a mission church in downtown Baton Rouge in 1916 that expanded and reached to form Trinity Lutheran Church in 1957, to a congregation today now focused on Kingdom Growth at Trinity Oaks and expanding an Education Anchored in Christ. What might happen over the next 99 years when we have faith and reach!

God continues to make apparent His unending love in my life and in Baton Rouge and I am excited that "Rooted & Reaching" provides an opportunity for Trinity Lutheran Church to continue to Praise, Love, Grow and Share – our Mission Statement. In response to God's love, I am reminded of the direction of God to Moses:

**Deuteronomy 6:5-9** *Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.*

*<sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup> Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.*

*<sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.*

My prayer is that God uses "Rooted & Reaching" to expand His Kingdom and allow Trinity to further understand, demonstrate, and share God's unending love.

God's Blessings,  
Eric Marx



Eric and Sarah Marx

## THE COMMITMENT PROCESS

You are encouraged to go to God in prayer as you work your way through the process of considering your gift. Pray for guidance in reaching a decision that will be right for you and the church. Step out in faith by allowing faith to become a part of your decision. Leave room for God to act and He will give you direction and opportunities in the decision you make. Part of stewardship is recognizing that God already owns all that we possess. God provides the resources for our lives and, through us, resources for the life and ministry of Christ's church.

Consider sacrifice as a way to show your love to the Lord. The word sacrifice can be defined as "to set apart" or "to make holy". Jesus chose those who gave sacrificially as models for giving. Further, scripture makes clear that God measures the gift, not in comparison to what others give, but in relation to one's resources and what is left over after the gift.

Consider ways to give which might include:

1. **Giving a portion of your income over and above your regular giving.**
2. **Giving made possible by changing your spending lifestyle or by rearranging priorities so that the importance of your giving to God's work is higher.**
3. **Giving from your "treasures" - your items of special value such as jewelry, land, etc.**

Please continue to pray daily for our Rooted & Reaching Campaign. Ask God to be with each of us as we step out in faith for His Kingdom.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>**  
Initial Commitment Event

**Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>**  
Commitment Celebration Event  
Trinity Oaks

**Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**  
Commitment Dedication Sunday

**Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>**  
First Fruits Offering

**Giving is for 3 years over and above your regular giving.**

**Some Ways to Give:**

Cash, Real Estate, Stocks or Bonds, Life Insurance Policies or Cash Values of Policies, Antiques, Works of Art, Jewelry, Coin or Stamp Collections, Income Tax Refunds, Irrevocable or Revocable Trust, etc.



**COMMITMENT CARD**

In this bold venture of faith, I/we prayerfully commit this amount toward advancing ministries at Trinity Lutheran Church, Baton Rouge Lutheran School and Trinity Lutheran Child Development Center:

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week for 156 weeks, for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
- Or, \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month for 36 months, for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
- Or, as follows: \_\_\_\_\_, for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**ROOTED & REACHING**  
CAPITAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN  
NOVEMBER 2015-  
NOVEMBER 2018

*“That you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to... know the love of Christ.”*  
Ephesians 3:17b-19

In the next few weeks you should receive a commitment card for the Rooted & Reaching Capital Campaign. Once you have studied God’s Word about stewardship and have prayed to ask for His guidance in determining the amount of your own sacrificial commitment to this campaign you are ready to fill out this card. Each must determine what they have decided in their own heart to contribute.

- If you decide to make an early commitment to this campaign, please join us on Tuesday, Oct. 13th from 6:30-7:30pm for dinner followed by a Consecration Service (in the sanctuary) where you will bring your commitment forward. If you have not already indicated that you plan to attend, please call the church office (225) 272-3110 so meal plans can be made.
- If you still have more praying to do, we ask that you fill in your commitment card in full and bring to the Commitment Celebration Sunday Service at Trinity Oaks on October 25th at 10am. Don’t forget to stay afterwards for a huge celebration event. (See Back).

**10 Scriptural Reasons to Give Wholeheartedly During This Campaign:**

1. God is pleased by our obedience.

*Malachi 3:10 – Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse that there may be food in my house. Test me in this says the LORD Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.*

2. Tithing blesses us! (Read Malachi 3:10 again.)

3. God is honored by your faithfulness. (Proverbs 3:9)

4. Tithing helps keep your priorities straight. (Mt. 6:21)

5. Tithing guards you from selfishness. (Acts 20:35)

6. God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Cor. 9:6-11)

7. Tithing supports our church. (2 Cor. 8:2-5)

8. God promises to meet our needs! (Mt. 6:25-33, Psalm 23:1, Phil. 4:19, 2 Peter 1:3, Psalm 145:16, and Psalm 147:9)

9. Tithing meets the needs of God’s people (1 Cor. 16:1-2).

10. Tithing reminds us that God is the true owner and giver of all that we have. (1 Timothy 6:17-18).





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On **Sunday, October 25, 2015** at **10:00am** we will gather for a special service at Trinity Oaks. We hope you can join us for this very special Rooted & Reaching Commitment Celebration Event.

Our goal is to surpass our largest worship service we have ever had! We encourage **EVERYONE** to come and celebrate what God is doing through the people of Trinity!

Following the service, we invite you to continue our celebration at the “Country Fair”. We will have plenty of food and fun for all ages!

In the event of inclement weather, be assured, we will have the service in the Sanctuary at Florida Blvd. and the Country Fair will be held in the gym.

If you have any questions, contact your Commitment Celebration Directors, Larry Rosendahl or Kim Davis. See YOU there!

*(Should there be inclement weather the service will be held in the sanctuary and the fair will be in the gym)*