



Dear friends of VS:

October, 2020

I hope this finds you and your loved ones well and safe.

A new partner has come into our program!
A week ago, I met with Zora Cheatham, the Pastor of the Millerton Presbyterian Church. She has generously offered the use of her church to accommodate clients and our team as the weather turns colder. We will now have a lovely refuge on Mondays! Thank you, Zora!

Today was our first day there. A record number of clients (46) came as we helped feed about 210 people.

Also, a big thank you to Caroline Burchfield of Hotchkiss School for a recent delivery of snack food for our clients. Caroline, a student and I are discussing the development of a tutoring program as well as a student-led (St. Luke's Society) clothing drive to provide warm winter apparel for our recipients.

The gift card program is going well. To conserve funds and to accommodate a larger numbers of people, each recipient, irrespective of family size, will receive one \$50.00 gift card. We are currently giving away about \$2200.00 a week in gift cards. Well over half of the 200 people we support are children and older adults.



I recently spoke at the annual convocation of the Northwest Region of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut. I really enjoyed this zoom gathering!
A few days ago, I was informed that Vecinos Seguros will be receiving a \$500.00 contribution from this group.

Currently, there are enough funds to sustain the gift card program through mid-November.

*Your amazing care and your generosity have made this outreach possible! Really!
Monthly contributors*

Please consider making a regular monthly donation. Individual *monthly* gifts now cover between \$12-\$1500 of an \$8-\$9000 monthly budget.

The coming winter months will be an especially hard time for the undocumented.

To Donate, Please Go To

<http://www.trinitylimerock.org/contact-us/donations-and-stewardship/>

Then follow the cues.

Under “Memo” write:

“VS COVID19 EMERGENCY FUND”

OR

Write a check to:

Trinity Lime Rock Church

Memo: VS: COVID19

Mail to: Trinity Lime Rock Church/ 484 Lime Rock Road/ Lakeville, CT 06039

Thank you very much for your support!!

Be safe, be kind and take good care of yourself and those you love.

Warm regards, John

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*On A Personal Note*

I recently was delighted and honored to officiate at the baptism of an infant at her home. It was a beautiful occasion. Below is a photo of the 11-month-old “candidate”. I came to know the mother through the gift card program.

The pastoral work that precedes a baptism is often poignant and humbling, as well as informative. Many have struggled to leave behind danger, violence and poverty, often severing close family ties, including parents leaving children and children leaving parents; embarking on perilous journeys to cross a border fraught with perils. After they arrive, many have to live in the shadows for a long time.

These stories are painful to hear, but I am often stunned and moved by the faith, courage and perseverance of those who have survived.

I am scheduled this month to officiate at two more baptisms of children from gift card families. Sometimes, there are fun surprises at baptisms! The undomesticated spirit may come through unscripted “cracks” in the orderliness of the rite. For example, at the ceremony referred to above, the infant loved the water so much she could not stay away from it, playing and splashing with her tiny hands.



She had fun and so did we!