

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

February 12th, 2023

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany



In today's reading from Deuteronomy we are called to choose life by loving and obeying God. Much of today's gospel reading echoes portions of the Ten Commandments. Jesus' instructions to the crowd reveal a pattern of behavior that honors both God and the neighbor, resulting in life and health for the whole community. We too are invited to embrace these commandments, not out of fear of retribution, but because God has promised that to do so means life for us.

- PRELUDE
- WELCOME
- ANNOUNCEMENTS
- PRAYER REQUESTS

*For sections with an *, please stand as you are able*

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who makes all things new,
whose mercy endures forever.

ALL: Amen.

L: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Holy One, source of our renewal,

**ALL: we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,
and cannot free ourselves.**

We have not practiced your righteousness.

Our hearts have turned away from you.

**For the sake of the world you so love,
forgive us,**

**that we may be reconciled to one another
for the glory of your holy name.**

Amen.

L: Thus says our God:

“The former things have come to pass
and new things I now declare.”

God's mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of ✝ Christ our Savior.

ALL: Amen.

***OPENING HYMN: Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling
Green Book: #523**

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

1 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er dwell-ing in the ho-liest realms of light;
 2 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er liv-ing as the church's ver-y life;
 3 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er work-ing through the church's min-is-try;

Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er brood-ing o'er a world of gloom and night;
 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er striv-ing through us in a cease-less strife;
 quick-'ning, strength-'ning, and ab-solv-ing, set-ting cap-tive sin-ners free;

Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er rais-ing those of earth to thrones on high;
 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er form-ing in the church the mind of Christ;
 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er bind-ing age to age and soul to soul

liv-ing, life-im-part-ing Spir-it, you we praise and mag-ni-fy.
 you we praise with end-less wor-ship for your gifts and fruits un-priced.
 in com-mu-nion nev-er end-ing, you we wor-ship and ex-tol.

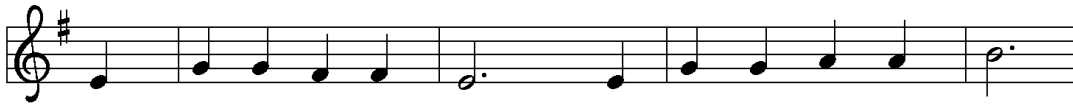
Text: Timothy Rees, 1874–1939, alt.
 Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855–1932

*GREETING

L: The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

*KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

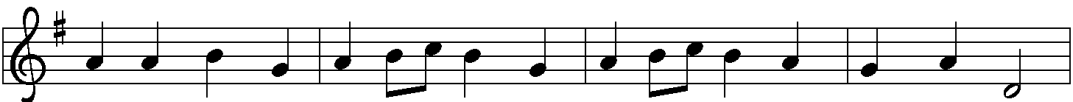
*HYMN OF PRAISE



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

L: O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

ALL: Amen.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

The LORD sets before the people of God a clear choice. Life and prosperity will come to the faithful; loss of the land will be the consequence of disobedience. Choosing life entails loving and holding fast to the Lord. Life in God's presence presupposes the promise made to the ancestors.

L: [Moses said to the people:] ¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

L: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 119:1-8

Happy are they who follow the teaching of the LORD. (Ps. 119:1)

L: ¹Happy are they whose way is blameless,
who follow the teaching of the LORD!

**ALL: ²Happy are they who observe your decrees
and seek you with all their hearts,**

L: ³who never do any wrong,
but always walk in your ways.

ALL: ⁴You laid down your commandments,

that we should fully keep them.

L: ⁵Oh, that my ways were made so direct
that I might keep your statutes!

ALL: ⁶**Then I should not be put to shame,
when I regard all your commandments.**

L: ⁷I will thank you with a true heart,
when I have learned your righteous judgments.

ALL: ⁸**I will keep your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Human leaders in the church are not the ones who control ministry. Rather they are coworkers who belong to God, the one who truly controls and continuously empowers the ministry of the church.

L: ¹Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? ⁴For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. ⁹For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

L: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



*GOSPEL: Matthew 5:21-37

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus exhorts his followers to embrace standards of righteousness that exceed legal requirements and traditional expectations.

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.

L: [Jesus said to the disciples:] ²¹“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison.

²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

³¹“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’

³²But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ ³⁴But I say to you, Do not swear at

all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S TIME

SERMON: Pastor Rick Mollenkopf-Grill

***HYMN OF THE DAY: O Master, Let Me Walk with You
Green Book: #492**

O Master, Let Me Walk with You

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
 3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
 4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the

paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
 win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
 dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
 fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly

help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
 feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
 sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
 you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, alt.
 Music: MARYTON, H. Percy Smith, 1825-1898

*APOSTLES CREED

L: Beloved, let us affirm our faith by use of the Apostle's Creed.

ALL:
I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

L: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Each prayer ends with these words:

L: Merciful God,

ALL: receive our prayer.

L: We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

ALL: Amen.

***THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

L: The peace of the LORD be with you always.

ALL: And also with you.

**You are invited to greet your neighbors with a sign of Christ's peace. Please be sure to have your neighbor's consent before sharing greetings with a handshake or other physical touch. Otherwise, sharing a wave, peace sign or a high-five are great ways to share the peace from a distance.*

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Any financial gifts you wish to give towards the ministry of Trinity may be placed in the offering plate at the rear of the worship space. We give thanks for your sharing of your offerings this and every day.

L: Liberating God,

**ALL: you break the bonds of injustice
and let the oppressed go free.**

**Receive these offerings in thanksgiving
for all your works of merciful power,**

and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.

You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,

Amen.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them to the Lord.

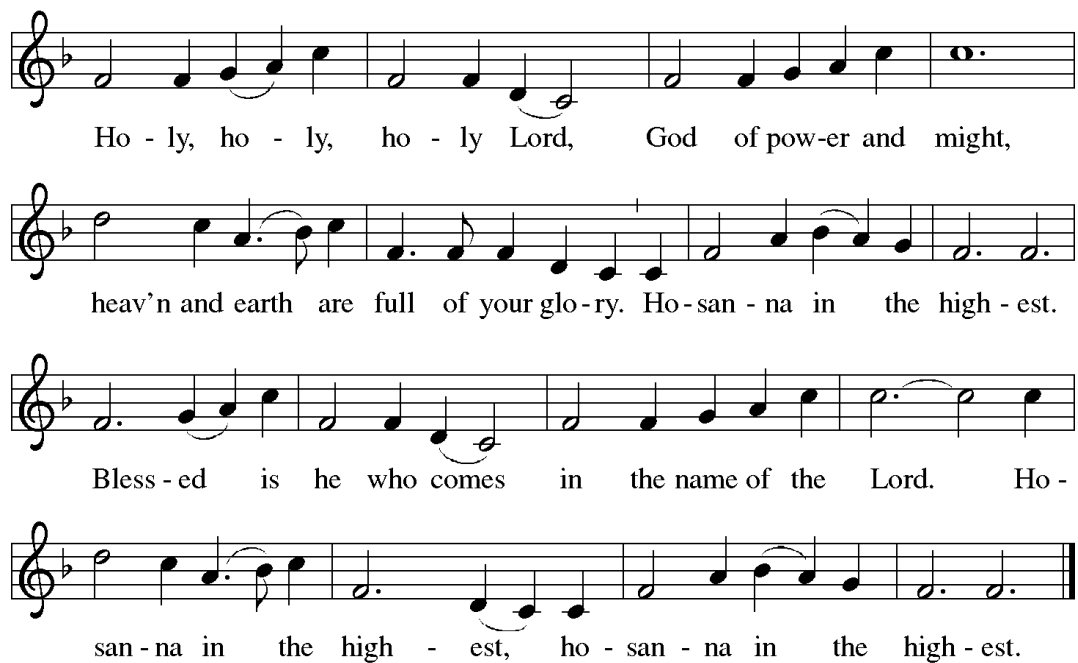
L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

L: In the night in which he was betrayed,
 Our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 Broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.
 Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 And gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

L: Be strong, do not fear!
 Here is your God, who has come to save you.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

The minister will give instruction on the distribution of communion.

COMMUNION HYMN: Lamb of God



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;




you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN: One Bread, One Body Blue Book: #710

To be sung during the distribution of communion - until distribution is complete

One Bread, One Body

Refrain



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,



2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,



3 Grain for the fields, scat - tered and grown,




Refrain

wom - an or man, no more.



one in the Lord of all.



gath - ered to one for all.

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939

Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, SJ

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*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

L: The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in God's grace, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: Holy One,

**ALL: we thank you for the healing
that springs forth abundantly from this table.**

**Renew our strength to do justice,
love kindness,**

and journey humbly with you.

Amen.

*BLESSING

L: The God who faithfully brings forth justice
and breaks the oppressor's rod

✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,
today and always.

ALL: Amen.

*SENDING HYMN: O Christ, Our Hope (vs 1-4)

Green Book: #300

O Christ, Our Hope



1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, cre - a - tion's might - y
2 How vast your mer - cy to ac - cept the bur - den of our
3 But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som has been
4 Oh, let your might - y love pre - vail to purge us of our



Lord, re - deem - er of the fall - en world, by
sin, and bow your head in cru - el death to
paid; you now as - cend the Fa - ther's throne in
pride, that we may stand be - fore your throne by



ho - ly love out - poured, by ho - ly love out - poured:
make us clean with - in, to make us clean with - in.
robes of light ar - rayed, in robes of light ar - rayed.
mer - cy pur - i - fied, by mer - cy pur - i - fied.

5 Christ Jesus, be our present joy,
our future great reward;
our only glory, may it be
to glory in the Lord!

6 All praise to you, ascended Lord;
all glory ever be
to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
through all eternity!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806–1876, adapt.
Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561

***DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Office hours

Pastor Rick: Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Tracy: Thursdays 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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*God's love is powerful...powerful enough to wade through our doubts, fears, and challenges.
And, God's love is for YOU and ALL*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Pray For:

Strength & Healing for:

Joanne Goeseke Taylor – patience & healing
Claude Shultz – continued recovery
Dale Fennell – continued recovery
Judy Stuber Rowland – final stages of cancer
Marcy Hatswell – strength to face the days ahead
Emma Corbett – continued recovery
Michael – health issues
Carl Patterson, Sr. – broken hip
Debbie Smith – broken hip

Prayers of peace & understanding for the families of:

Lakera Swanson
Clara Weber
Mary Frey

Thanksgiving for: Samantha and the boys are home from the hospital!

Prayers are a powerful way to lift up people who are sick, injured or suffering for God's healing. Let us know of names you would like to have the church pray for, and we'll add them to the list here and in the Beacon. If you wish for names to remain anonymous, you can let Pastor Rick know privately and he'll pray for them silently. Names will remain in the bulletin and Beacon for around a month unless you let us know to extend their listing or remove them sooner. There is a list near the offering collection plate to write names down, or you can leave a message with the church office.

Counters: February: Jennifer, March: Paula, April: MaryLou

Next Council Meeting: Monday, February 13th at 7:00

Souper Bowl of Caring

Today is Super (Souper) Bowl Sunday! That means you can pick who you think will win the Super Bowl while supporting the “city of Good Neighbor’s Food Pantry.” You are asked to drop \$1.00 or more in the kettle for your chosen team. Trinity ahas supported the Souper Bowl for over 20 years. Too bad the Buffalo Bills didn’t make it this year. But there’s always next year!

Sunday School

Join us for our next Sunday School dates: TODAY and February 26th. The Sunday School students will be making Valentines for homebound people. If you know of anyone who would love to receive a Valentine, please give their name and address to the Sunday School staff – Pastor Rick Ms. Donna, Ms. Jane or Ms. Ronda following worship.

Communion Helpers:

We have resumed our communion “helpers”! Any child that wishes to help with communion by handing out goldfish to the other children during communion is welcome. Pastor will ask for a volunteer during service and will choose a different volunteer to help each week. Every child will get a chance to help if they desire.

Bible Study:

Bible study in the book of Matthew continues on Wednesday evenings at 6:30. There will be no meeting on Ash Wednesday. Bible study will continue through Lent when we add in some Lenten Devotions, too.

Choir

Choir is meeting Wednesdays at 7:30 all are welcome. Please see David for additional Sunday rehearsal dates.

Adult Forum

Our next Adult Forum will be March 19th at 10:45am, please join us!

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday worship will be February 22nd at 7pm.

Not able to make it to Ash Wednesday worship in the evening? Stop by for Ashes to Go to start your day! Pastor Rick will be at the church doors from 7-9 am on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 22nd). Simply drive up and Pastor will meet you at your car to offer ashes and a short prayer. It will only take a minute. A great way get you started on your workday and your Lenten journey.

Property Committee

There will be a property meeting on February 19th following worship. Please join us!

Little Food Pantry

The Little food Pantry is in constant need of restocking. Dry, non-perishable items like peanut butter and mac 'n cheese will help keep the pantry afloat to help those in need. Please spread the word so we can get the community involved as well. There is a collection box in the narthex, or you can place your items in the Pantry itself.

Synod Lenten Collection

For the last three years during Lent we have held a friendly "competition" to see who could collect the most toilet paper, period products, and diapers. This year we would like to challenge your congregation to collect change for change.

Millions of Americans are struggling under the weight of medical debt. Nearly ½ of all Americans struggle to afford healthcare costs. For Black, Hispanic, and low-income adults that figure jumps to at least 6 in 10. We are working with nonprofit medical debt to make a difference. They have a unique model that combines generosity of donors with debt industry experts to produce a high volume of debt relief. Every \$100 dollars donated leads to about \$10,000 forgiven. For mere pennies on the dollar you can help relieve someone of the crushing weight of debt. Our Synod goal is \$10,000 dollars. All of this would be forgiven in New York State.

Read more about this organization here <https://ripmedicaldebt.org/> or in this article by NPR [*Organization Forgives Billions! Click Here to Read.*](#)

Stay tuned for more details on how the money will be collected.