



From the Pastor ...

Christian Liberty

It is now the 500th anniversary of one of Martin Luther's key treatises, *The Freedom of a Christian*. It begins with this thesis statement:

A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none.

This bold statement is based off the conviction that the cross of Jesus Christ liberated us from sin, death, and evil. If those have been conquered, then what else is there to fear? Nothing. Absolutely nothing.

But following right behind the thesis statement above comes the other half of it:

A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.

This is an even bolder statement that makes many people bristle. We want our personal liberties, our individual freedoms, but we do not want to be responsible for the "neighbor." We often define "neighbor" as any who is basically like "us", whereas Jesus defined neighbor as someone who is in need of mercy. [See the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25-37]

There are many people in our country who would not agree with Martin Luther's thesis. I, for one, see it lived out in our society every time we see large crowds gather, every time we see people not wearing masks, every time we see people taking unnecessary risks to get together. We like our individual liberties but do not like our social responsibilities. We like our personal freedoms, but do not want the obligation to our neighbor the gospel demands of us. Many evangelicals in our country would applaud the Bible's reminder that we are to "love God," but they would conveniently forget that we are also called to "love our neighbor." They want the freedom that faith in Christ affords them, but they do not want the duty to serve others that our faith demands of us.

They cannot have it both ways. Dietrich Bonhoeffer called this "cheap grace." Cheap Grace is when we want the benefits of salvation without the obligation that salvation demands of us.

We in the Christian Church ought to be exemplary models of faithfulness. This means that we need to model mask wearing, physical distancing, handwashing, refraining from community, as all of these communicate our love for our neighbor. Whenever we choose not to wear a mask in public, we are basically saying, "I value *my* personal freedom to not wear a mask more than I care for *you*." What kind of Christian witness is that? "Those who passed by derided Jesus, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" (Mark 15:29-30) What if Christ responded, "I will save myself from the cross because all y'all are not worth saving."

Thinking about others is not only a Christian thing. It grew out of our Jewish roots. God had liberated the Hebrew people from being slaves in Egypt. They were, like Luther said, "subject to none." They had absolute freedom. So, what did God do? God gave them laws to help and guide them so that they could live in community together, because absolute freedom is as much of a tyranny than is slavery. The Ten Commandments were a sign of God's love and faithfulness to God's people.

Even with the laws, however, the Hebrew people were not satisfied. They dealt with the trauma of wandering in the wilderness much like we are dealing with the trauma of the pandemic. They were frustrated and dissatisfied. (Exodus 15:24) They complained. (Exodus 17:3) They were uncertain about the future. (Leviticus 14:1-4) They were disillusioned with their leaders. (Exodus 16:2) And they had the strong desire to "go back" to Egypt. (Numbers 14:4)

We are more like them than not. How many of us are frustrated and dissatisfied by the enemy (the corona virus) we cannot see and complain about it? [Anger] How many of us are uncertain about the future for us, personally, and for us, globally? [Depression] How many of us are disillusioned by our "leaders," everyone from the President, to the Governor, to me, your Pastor and say things like, "If only we had strong leadership from ____." [Bargaining] How many of us complain that we cannot do the things like we used to do, and so "go back" to the time before the pandemic hit us and act as though there is no corona virus, no global pandemic and no death? [Denial] All of these are stages of grief, by the way. It would serve us all well if we did two things: **Reflect** on what we are missing out on due to the pandemic and **Lament**.

To reflect on our lives means that we turn off the 24-hour news cycle, back away from the computer, find a quiet place and remember how we used to live. Make a list of the things we used to enjoy without any concern: sit in a coffee shop as you work, go out for breakfast, meet up with friends at the beach, listen to live music in the park, shake hands with people you just met and give hugs to those who are hurting, go to worship, and attend weddings and funerals, etc. Take your time. Even add to it on other days when you think of something new. Each item on your list is something you have lost, which means that it is something you are grieving and may not even be aware of it.

People of faith have the long history of lament. There are some laments in the Psalms and there are both individual laments, like 13, 22, 25, 39, 41 and more, and communal laments, like 44, 60, 74, 79, 80, 85, 90 and more. We are also given the whole book of Lamentations, whereby Jeremiah voices his own cries:

My eyes flow with rivers of tears
because of the destruction of my people.
My eyes will flow without ceasing, without respite,
until the LORD from heaven looks down and sees.
My eyes cause me grief
at the fate of all the young people in my city. (Lam. 3:48-51)

But then, in the midst of the fear and grief, there is also quiet trust in the Lord.

I called on your name, O LORD, from the depths of the pit;
you heard my plea,
"Do not close your ear to my cry for help,
but give me relief!"
You came near when I called on you;
you said, "Do not fear!"
You have taken up my cause, O Lord,
you have redeemed my life.

Let us, at Trinity, be a people who will model good, healthy, faithful practices. Let us wear masks, wash our hands, keep physical distance when we do have to go out and isolate ourselves whenever possible. Let us reflect and acknowledge our losses and cry our laments to our God who hears our pleas, calms our fears, and redeems our lives. Let us also be a people who relishes in our Christian liberties and who also accepts our Christian responsibilities. Let us be a people who both loves God and loves our neighbor.

In Christ, Pastor Tim



[Worship in The Home \(WITH\)](#)

Many of you have responded to our Trinity Loving Care Callers how you really appreciate the videos. I have heard from our snowbirds, friends, and relatives in other states, stating how they really like the WITH videos. Feel free to share the email that has the link or direct them to our website. It is another way we can work together to proclaim the gospel.

Sunday Morning Zoom Coffee Hour

There is no agenda to this meeting. It is just a time for you to see others, or hear other people's voices, that you have not seen or heard since the building was closed. So, get a cup of coffee or tea and join us. It will be on Sunday mornings from 10 am to 11:00 am. Here is the information:

To join via **computer**: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82011271593>

Meeting ID: 820 1127 1593

To join via **telephone**:

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 820 1127 1593



Monday Morning Bible Study via Zoom

These studies focus on one or more of the readings we will have for the coming Sunday in worship. Some people show up so that we can see each other, while other people have been calling in and participating that way. Either way is good, and you do not need to have any experience ahead of time. We simply ask that, if you can, read the lessons ahead of time. The lessons for the next month are:

Bible Studies for September

Sept. 7 No Bible study (Labor Day)

Sept. 14 **Jonah 3:10--4:11** *God's concern for the city of Nineveh*

Psalm 145:1-8 *The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*

Philippians 1:21-30 *Standing firm in the gospel*

Matthew 20:1-16 *The parable of the vineyard workers*

Sept. 21 **Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32** *The fairness of God's way*

Psalm 25:1-9 *Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love.*

Philippians 2:1-13 *Christ humbled to the point of death on a cross*

Matthew 21:23-32 *A parable of doing God's will*

Sept. 28 **Isaiah 5:1-7** *The song of the vineyard*

Psalm 80:7-15 *Look down from heaven, O God; behold and tend this vine.*

Philippians 3:4b-14 *Nothing surpasses the value of knowing Christ*

Matthew 21:33-46 *The parable of the vineyard owner's son*

Join Zoom Meeting for the Bible Study

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87504774403?pwd=VUpUUGJPRkNlVlYhHhVSXBHUkh3UT09>

Meeting ID: 875 0477 4403

To connect via **Telephone**:

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Password: 017896

WELCA – ELIZABETH CIRCLE MEETING VIA ZOOM

Elizabeth Circle members and friends will gather for Bible Study and Fellowship

Tuesday, September 8th at 11 AM via Zoom

Mary Matthews will lead the Bible Study

Gather Magazine's Bible Study: September - Holy Memory

1. Why we remember 2. How God re-members us.

Trinity Women & friends are invited. Hope you will join us and feel free to have your refreshments whenever you like during the meeting.

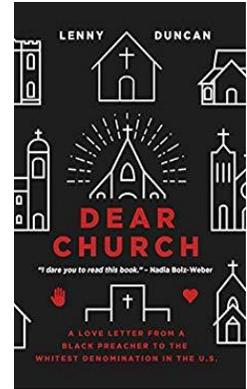
Zoom Book Study

Beginning Sunday, September 13 at 11:00 am

The news lately has been filled with images of protests. Race has become a hot topic in our country. In September, Trinity will start a book study to learn more about race and the ELCA.

Beginning September 13th, a zoom book study will meet every **Sunday at 11:00**. We will begin with the book Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US by Lenny Duncan. Facilitated by Raeann Purcell and Karen Weinrich, we will discuss small portions of the book each week.

If you want to join us, please order a copy of the book. You do NOT need to read the entire book ahead of time. In next month's newsletter a specific schedule will be published that shows which chapters we will discuss each week. We hope many people will join us as we learn together about church and race.



During the month of September, let's focus on our emotional well-being.



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advise us that pandemics can be stressful, and the required social distancing can leave us feeling isolated and lonely. Coping with stress in a healthy way will make us, the people we care about and our community stronger.

The CDC recommends the following stress-reducing habits:

- Take care of your body-try to eat healthy, well-balanced meals, exercise regularly and get plenty of sleep. (I love to walk in nature or on the beach!)
- Connect with others-Maintain healthy relationship and build a strong support system. (Our Trinity family has been keeping us connected.)
- Take breaks-Make time to unwind, take in deep breaths, do activities that you enjoy.
- Stay informed-Watch, listen to, or read official news updates. Be aware that there may be rumors during a crisis, especially on social media. Check your news sources.
- Avoid too much exposure to news-It can be upsetting to hear about the crisis and see images repeatedly. Check for updates from reliable sources and get back to enjoyable activities.
- Seek help when needed-If distress impacts activities of your daily life for several days or weeks, talk to a clergy member, counselor, doctor or contact the SAMHSA helpline at 1-800-985-5990.

Be well, stay healthy and remember to practice self-care.

The Stewardship Ministry Team

September Birthdays

1	Rich Lipinski		22	Arthur Larson (2 yrs. old)
3	Barbara Fortney			Darian Tucker
7	Marilyn Curtis		25	Gladys Bachman
8	Shirley Niemeyer			Linda Roemer
9	Sherry Coons		26	Louise Jacobsen
10	Marilou Spencer		28	Phyllis D'Alessio
12	Pastor Tim Bernard		29	Don Smith



If your name is missing from the Birthday Blessings, please email the church office to let us know. Thank you.

Cantor's Notes

**“We believe that the holy act of singing together shapes faith,
heals brokenness, transforms lives, and renews peace.”**

The guiding stance of *The Center for Congregational Song*
of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada.



- + **Recent webinars** (online classes) I have attended have been about liturgy, new music publications, and the use of percussion in worship. One presenter reminded us that our traditional liturgy is helpful and necessary during this time of pandemic and disorder. Its inherent Biblical nature, its rhythm and reliability, its familiarity and structure can bring solace and comfort in the midst of so much chaos and heartbreak.
- + **Please sing at home** when you are watching and participating in our worship services. The music for the hymns, psalm, and gospel acclamation is included in the PDF file of the worship service that is emailed each week. **When we record** the worship services at Trinity, please know that “in our minds’ eyes” we see you in the pews and hear you singing with us! **Trumpet tunes** will continue as organ postludes during September and will be by contemporary composers based on familiar hymn tunes.
- + **Hymn Story: *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*.** John Fawcett, a Baptist minister working at a small parish in Yorkshire, received a call to join a larger parish in London. This would help him support his growing family. However, he found it hard to say goodbye to the town parishioners because of their bonds of loyalty and affection. Finally, with the farewell sermon already preached and the wagonloads of household goods almost ready to leave, Fawcett and his wife decided they had to stay. The wagons were unpacked, and they remained for fifty years. The experience prompted him soon afterward to write this hymn.

*Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of heart and mind is like to that above.*

*Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.*

*We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,
and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.*

*From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.*

Text: John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt.

Cantate Domino! (Sing to the Lord!)
Brian Larson

Thank You Gwen Leahy and Else Abel

thank you!

This is a much belated thank you to Gwen Leahy who led our Witness Team as its chairperson. She did a lot to raise awareness in the community of Trinity and our ministries. She stepped down in May because she and Jerry were preparing to move back to PA. We sincerely apologize for not thanking her earlier for all she has done and, had the pandemic not been going on, we would have done a rite of Farewell and Godspeed for Gwen and Jerry. Gwen and Jerry, please accept our apology.

Else Abel recently stepped down from serving on the Personnel Team. She continues to be connected to Trinity and our mission but felt that this time of the pandemic is a good time for her to step down. We thank her for her service!

Calling All Men

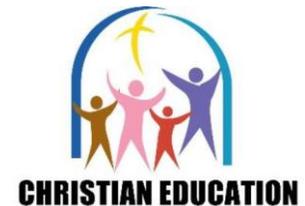
What does it really mean to be a “man” in today’s world? We have operating in our world images of, what some scholars call, hyper-masculinity and machismo. Robert Bly, who initiated a ‘men’s movement’ in the 1990’s through his book, *Iron John*, calls this same view of males ‘infantile grandiose masculinity.’ Ouch. Bly uses story, and mythology, and a look at cultures around the world to give a layered look at what it meant to be a man in antiquity. He lays a lot of the blame on our industrialized society. It used to be that boys grew up working alongside their fathers and grandfathers, so there was continuity and a direct experience about what it means to be a man. But when fathers began to work in factories, boys lost that modeling and mentoring, which means that boys were left to figure out on their own what it means to be a man. Right now, he thinks, we have a lot of adult males who never really grew up and who act much like they did when they were adolescents.

If you are interested in being a part of this group, please contact Pastor Tim. We will begin to explore our relationships to our grandpas and fathers, those male mentors and healthy role models in our lives. You can email him at revtimtlc@gmail.com. We will be doing this via Zoom if there is interest for this new ministry.

A Special Appeal from the Christian Education Team Ministry

Dear Trinity Brothers and Sisters,

Fall is quickly approaching and is the usual time of the year when we once again welcome our church children and youth back to “Sunday School.” This year, of course, with the Covid-19 pandemic still continually active in our state, we cannot hold classes in our church building. We need to plan for a whole new way of providing our children with an engaging educational program that is essential for them to grow in Christian faith and knowledge.



One way we can do this is by providing our children and youth with a monthly packet containing a craft or activity that complements the Sunday Worship Bible readings or the Sunday School Lessons. In addition, once a month, participants would be invited to an online “Zoom” Sunday School Lesson: One would be for the younger children, and on a different Sunday morning another would be geared towards the older children and youth.

These are tentative plans that will take a lot of planning, coordination, and more volunteers to make it all a reality. It is a daunting task for our small Christian Education Team, so we are asking you to prayerfully consider joining our Team to support this especially important mission! Here are just a few things you might do: help locate needed materials for the children’s packets; provide arts and craft ideas or materials; make a music CD of Christian themed songs ; teach how to sew a colorful “mask” for a child or teen; or help deliver the packages to homes; host a zoom Sunday School Session or teach a craft with your child or grandchild, enrich the program with technology; your ideas!

Please pray for Trinity’s children and youth. Call or e-mail Marie Smith if you would like to join our Team and help us with this important mission.

Marie Smith, Team Chair

Tel: 609 439-3328 Email: solveigmaries@gmail.com

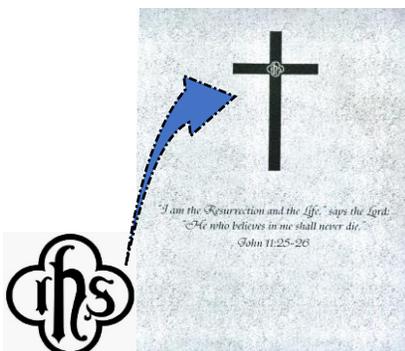
We can’t spell SUNDAY SCHOOL without “U”

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEAM MEETING VIA ZOOM

Thursday, September 17th at 7 PM

Zoom invitation will be sent prior to meeting

Columbarium Update



Columbarium Team Members:

Blanche Johnson (281-610-5818)
Jean Haughwout (386-478-9650)
Marilyn O'Connor (386-402-4304)
Judy Driesbaugh (570-650-3478)
Joe Kellermeier (386-785-7101)
Gary Williams (914-582-3515)

The Trinity Columbarium is under construction. (Above photo similar to our design). The cross design is based on the framed cross that is on display in the fellowship hall with the "IHS" insignia in the center of it. [IHS is derived from the first three letters of the Greek name of Jesus, Iota-Eta-Sigma.] The cross and verse will be placed on the side of the Columbarium facing the Church.

Needless to say, COVID-19 has delayed the shipping time, but the Columbarium team is moving forward in preparation for its arrival. Our first project is landscaping, and a sub-team is working on the layout. Any suggestions or thoughts are welcome in planning what plants, shrubs should be planted back there so we add to the serenity atmosphere.

The team is always accepting applications for niches. An application packet can be obtained by contacting either Marilyn O'Connor (386-402-4304), Blanche Johnson (281-610-5818) or Jean Haughwout (386-478-9650). We will work within the safety guidelines to get the application to you.

Anyone interested in joining the Columbarium team or helping with any of the preparation projects, please let one of the Columbarium team members (names and numbers listed above) know.

We are accepting donations for the purpose of such items as two 4 ft benches with arms for sitting in the Columbarium area; plants that would add to the peaceful environment we are creating; any additional ideas someone might have.

In Genesis 3:19, the Lord God said to the man: "By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken: you are dust, and to dust you shall return." On Ash Wednesday, ashes are imposed in the form of a cross on our foreheads as the pastor says: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." And as a coffin or ashes is interred in a Columbarium niche or in the earth, the presiding minister prays: "...we commit his/her body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust...." Earth, ashes, dust: our end is the same whether we are buried or cremated.

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Question Box – Online Giving

Thank you for your overwhelming response the **Online Giving** option. The program is new to all of us and we appreciate your questions. Feel free to contact Phyllis at Trinity's email address with your questions. trinitylutheran485@gmail.com.

Question: If someone chooses **Online Giving** to contribute to the ministry at Trinity, will they continue to receive their monthly envelopes at home?

Answer: If your electronic offering is a **one-time offering**, **you will** continue to receive monthly envelopes at home.
If your offering is set up as a **reoccurring monthly donation**, **you will not** receive monthly envelopes at home. Please note: The process time to discontinue monthly mailings to your home takes approx. 2 months.



Thank you for your Response!

Chisholm Elementary thanks you for your continued support for the students and staff. This year Trinity donated 111 pairs of undies, 72 pairs of sox, and over 1150 items of assorted school supplies, as well as \$500 in gifts cards and \$1200 in monetary donations. The needs are great this year, and the donations were well received and gratefully appreciated.

Gifts of Love Food Bank helps local needy families with food and assistance. Trinity continues to support them financially and with non-perishable food donations from you, the congregation. Food donations collected during our outreach were delivered to the facility, and over \$1200 has been donated so far in 2020.

Thank you for your support and generosity!

A special thank you to the volunteers for their help in organizing the Undies Sundays/Food Drive, collecting the donations, delivering school supplies and food: Beve Swanson, Gail Roe, Kate Mingle, Rosalie Kalman, Raeann Purcell, Linda Muchow, Pastor Tim, Sandi Wirth, Larry Muchow, and staff. Great Team! Larry Muchow, on behalf of Service Outreach

Council Members 2020

Larry Muchow – President
Kate Mingle – Vice President
Nancy Hopkins – Secretary
Rosalie Kalman – Treasurer
George Cramer Bob Horak
Jean Haughwout Raeann Purcell
Colleen Sumner Gary Williams
Marie Smith Doris Will

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Florida-Bahamas Synod www.fbsynod.org
ELCA www.elca.org

Pastor: **Rev. Tim Bernard**
Cantor: Brian Larson
Office Admin: Phyllis D'Alessio
Custodian: Laura Jones

**Our Facility is Closed,
but Ministry is Still Happening!**

**Please check your emails or our website
www.trinitylutherannsb.org
for updates.**

Editorial Policy - In order to maintain consistency and unity of church policy and to conform to layout requirements, the pastor, editor, and office staff reserve the right to edit for space and content all material for the *Beacon*, the Annual Congregational Report, and other official publications of Trinity. (Adopted 12-14-06)