

From the Pastor

February 2021

Religion, Baptism, and Quick Fixes

If you have ever attended one of the Bible Studies, you would know that I love etymology – the study of word origins. Not only do I love to define words, I also like to peel back the layers to get to the root of the word. I think many people today toss out words thinking everybody knows what we mean when we use them, when, in reality, we don't.

Take the word 'religion' for example. What comes to mind when you hear the word religion? We often think of a system of beliefs, or the organizational structure. We think of the doctrines and dogmas, rules and regulations, creeds and confessions; things that are hardly inspirational given the perceived restrictions they imply.

But what about the actual word *religion*? Religion comes from the same root word as *ligament*. The Latin word is *ligare* and it means "to bind." Just as a ligament connects two bones together, religion is something that is meant to connect us together.

So how do we become connected to one another? In the Christian religion, it is baptism. Baptism is the initiation rite of the church. It is how we "join" the "body."

Within the rite of baptism there are two components that I find historically interesting: the renunciations and the creed. In the early church, exorcism was a part of the rite of baptism. The candidate for baptism would stand at the back of the church, facing outward. There they would be asked the three renunciations, one at a time: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God? Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God? Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God? After each of the renunciations they would shout, "I renounce them!" This was seen as a strong and stern response to the evil spirits operating in this world that can come over us.

After the third renunciation, the candidate would then turn toward the font, the cross, and the congregation, an outward turning that symbolizes the inner turning that takes place when we reject sin and accept the merciful and loving grace of God. Then, the candidate would confess their faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed. The three renunciations matched the three articles of the Creed; one article each for the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. That is how one joined the body of Christ, joined the community of faith. It is how people became connected to the body.

As people, as congregations, and as members of a national Church, we are prone to wanting "quick-fixes." We want techniques, processes, or technological changes, that will help us "succeed." Quick-fixes are often identified with phrases like, "When we..." "When we finally get a pastor, then we get this congregation going again!" "When we get our mission statement figured out, then we will know how to move forward!" "When we get the technology that will allow us to livestream worship, then we can really reach out in our community." "When we restructure the Church, then we will be better able to serve others." And so on, and so on. The problem is that the "when wes" never end. Once we get one thing done, the next quick-fix is already on the horizon.

Are there things we can do that can help us in ministry? Yes, by all means. It is good for congregations to have pastors, mission statements, a workable organizational structure, and innovative ways to reach out into the community. These are all good things, but they will not save us. God alone saves us.

And this gets us back to religion. The best part of religion – any religion – is the part that makes us more authentically human, that connects us to one another, that makes us better people, and that makes us better members of our communities. We, as Christians, become better people by living out our baptisms: by rejecting the forces of evil operating in our world, rejecting the powers that rebel against God, rejecting the ways of sin that draw us from God, and then turning (repent means to change one’s heart or mind) toward the Triune God. Baptism is not something that was done to us once as though it is another quick-fix or magical moment. Baptism is a life-long process of saying “no” to other forces that go against the forgiveness, mercy, and love of God. In other words, *daily* we say no to the powers, the ideologies, the people, who spew hatred and animosity, and who sew division and dissent. And *daily* we say yes to the gracious power of God. I think many of us forget about the saying no part.

We need to be vigilant. We need to think critically. We need to pray for guidance. We need to engage more often with people who do uphold the faith and less time watching the 24-hour news cycle, that depending on the news channel (no matter whether their bias is from the political left or the political right) is a part of the problem. We need to remember both the renunciations of evil powers and the acceptance of God’s gracious powers, so that our bodies (individual and communal bodies) grow in a healthy manner.

Religion is not a quick-fix. It is a cumulative experience that takes time for us to grow into. In fact, it is a life-long journey. But as the old saying goes, “the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” May the Holy Spirit move us to take that single step for the long journey ahead.

Pastor Tim



- Lord, have mercy

Our theme for our **Wednesday Worship In The Home** services during Lent is *Kyrie eleison*. *Kyrie eleison* is Greek for “Lord, have mercy.”

When we pray in worship every week, we often pray for “the church, the world, and all those in need.” On Good Friday, we do what is called the “Bidding Prayer.” In this prayer, each petition begins with a “bid” – Let us pray for _____. Then, there is a time on our own to pray for that concern, followed by a communal prayer to end that petition.

This year, our midweek services will be more meditative and reflective. And each week we will focus our readings and prayers on just one bid. We will pray for: The Church, Creation, The Nations, Health, and Others. These videos will be released on Wednesdays. Let us please take some time each week to slow down, open our hearts, and pray to God asking for mercy.

Worship In the Home (WITH) available on our Website



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 direct them to our website.** It is another way we can work together to proclaim the gospel. www.trinitylutheranssb.org

Outdoor Worship Sundays 9:30 am



Since this is rather new for us at Trinity, the Seeking to Keep Trinity Safe Task Force put together a couple of sheets for you to read through so that you will know what to expect when you arrive.

Visit our website www.trinitylutheranssb.org for details

The Sunday Study

Please join us as we wrap up discussing the social message from the ELCA titled: *Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy*. It is available on our website (www.trinitylutheranssb.org) along with the study guide. *You do not need to have participated in the previous weeks in order to participate this week.*

2/7 Part 4 and Conclusion: Called to Civic Engagement

Then we will be moving toward discussing the book *Raising Ryland: Our Story of Parenting a Transgender Child in No Strings Attached* by Hillary Whittington. There are free copies in the narthex. We will also put them out on the table in the porch on Sunday mornings.

2/14 chapters 1-4

2/29 chapters 5-10

3/7 chapters 11-19

3/14 guest speaker

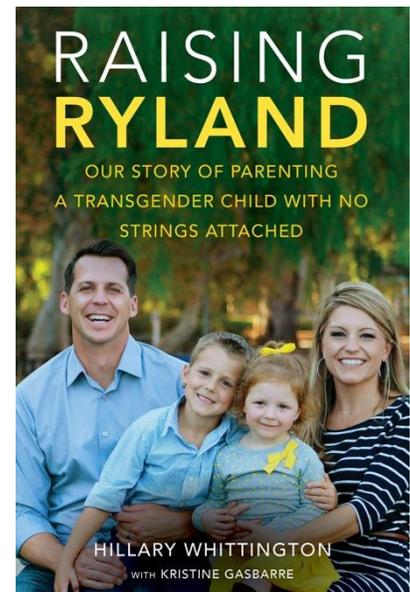
Join Zoom Meeting via computer

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81415640321>

Join Zoom Meeting via telephone

1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 814 1564 0321



Monday Morning Bible Study on Zoom at 11 am

Feel free to join us! (Zoom information is shown after the lessons)

Bible Studies for February

2/1 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31 *The creator of all cares for the powerless*
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c *The Lord heals the brokenhearted. (Ps. 147:3)*
1 Corinthians 9:16-23 *A servant for the sake of the gospel*
Mark 1:29-39 *The healing of Peter's mother-in-law*

2/8 Transfiguration of Our Lord

2 Kings 2:1-12 *Elijah taken up to heaven and succeeded by Elisha*
Psalm 50:1-6 *Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth in glory. (Ps. 50:2)*
2 Corinthians 4:3-6 *God's light seen clearly in the face of Christ*
Mark 9:2-9 *Revelation of Christ as God's beloved Son*

2/15 First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17 *The rainbow, sign of God's covenant*
Psalm 25:1-10 *Your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness. (Ps. 25:10)*
1 Peter 3:18-22 *Saved through water*
Mark 1:9-15 *The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days*

2/22 Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 *God blesses Abraham and Sarah*
Psalm 22:23-31 *All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord. (Ps. 22:27)*
Romans 4:13-25 *The promise to those who share Abraham's faith*
Mark 8:31-38 *The passion prediction*

3/1 Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17 *The commandments are given at Sinai*
Psalm 19 *The commandment of the Lord gives light to the eyes. (Ps. 19:8)*
1 Corinthians 1:18-25 *Christ crucified, the wisdom of God*
John 2:13-22 *The cleansing of the temple*

Monday Bible Study Zoom information:

Join Zoom Meeting via computer

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87504774403?pwd=VUpUUGJPRkNlVVlyaHhVSXBHUkh3UT09>

Join Zoom Meeting via telephone

1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 875 0477 4403 Password: 017896



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.



+ **Hymn Story:** *Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved* (ELW 602)

Kyrie is the Greek word for “Lord.” During the fourth century, the Jerusalem church introduced a litany of intercession into the first half of the Holy Communion liturgy, petitioning God’s intervention in the affairs of the Church and the world. To each petition, offered by the deacon, the congregation responded: *Kyrie eleison* (Lord, have mercy). By the fifth century, this “Deacon’s Litany” had spread throughout the Church and continued to maintain a litany form until the eighth century, when the litany form disappeared and only the responses survived: *Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison*. In recent hymnals you will find examples of both versions. I am sure these words are familiar to you:

*In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.***

*For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.***

*For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.***

*For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.***

*Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.***

In our hymnal, we also have hymn versions of the Kyrie. ELW 409, *Kyrie! God, Father in Heaven Above*, is a Latin hymn dating from the twelfth century. Martin Luther would have sung this hymn.

*Kyrie! God, Father in heav’n above, you abound in gracious love,
of all things the maker and preserver. Eleison! Eleison!*

*Kyrie! O Christ, our king, salvation for all you came to bring.
O Lord Jesus, God’s own Son, our mediator at the heav’nly throne:
hear our cry and grant our supplication. Eleison! Eleison!*

*Kyrie! O God the Holy Ghost, guard our faith, the gift we need the most,
and bless our life’s last hour, that we leave this sinful world with gladness.
Eleison! Eleison! Amen.*

The hymn *Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved* comes from the Slovak Lutheran Church. The tune name is *Vieme to, Pan Bože náš*. The author was a Lutheran pastor serving during the Thirty Years’ War, during which time three of his children and half of his congregation died. The melody has been used with this hymn since it was first published in 1636. The second and third phrases of this tune bear a resemblance to the opening and closing phrases of the *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!*

*O God, Father in heaven, have mercy upon us.
Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know, by ev’ry evil, ev’ry woe;
upon your cross-forsaken Son our death is laid, and peace is won.*

*O Son of God, redeemer of the world, have mercy upon us.
Your arms extend, O Christ, to save from sting of death and grasp of grave;
your scars before the Father move his heart to mercy at such love.*

*O God, Holy Spirit, have mercy upon us.
O lavish Giver, come to aid the children that your word has made.
Now make us grow and help us pray; bring joy and comfort; come to stay.*

During the season of Lent, we will use the “Deacon’s Litany” in our online and Sunday morning outdoor worship services. Hymn 602 will be used in our Lenten mid-week online services.

Cantate Domino! (Sing to the Lord!)

Brian Larson



God in whose love we are made,
when bread is before us
remind us of the hungry.

When our key is in our door
remind us of those
who have no home.

When we enjoy the opportunities
of money in our pockets
remind us of those
who only know poverty.

When the laughter of friendship
fills our hearing
remind us of those
who know only loneliness.

When the love of our family
keeps us safe
remind us of those whose family
was the place of their pain.

When we wonder what it is
we can do
remind us that you said:
Whenever you feed the hungry,
clothe the naked,
welcome the stranger,
visit the prisoner,
you do it for me.

And lead us to do
as you call us to do.
Amen.

– Iona Community, Scotland

Submitted by Gretchen Marz

A NEW BIRTHDAY SONG

Using the tune KREMSER, *We Praise You, O God*

We celebrate with you the life that God gave you.
We thank him for letting us share in your joy.
God bless you and keep you and shine his light upon you.
With love we sing together happy birthday to you.

February

March

2	Joan Norris	1	Kristin Rasmussen
3	Fay Faller	4	Karl Gimbel
5	Carol Topham	5	Michael Lawrence
	Jeff Winterstein	6	Deb Fasanello
10	Anthony Gracia	7	Gerry Ceglia
11	Judy Driesbaugh	8	Joe Kellermeier
16	Bob Horak	12	Bobbe Owen
17	Loretta Wolff	17	Kay Smith
20	Jackie Treadwell	18	Penny McKeever
21	Nancy Hopkins	18	Joady Schroth
24	Al Schroth	20	Henry Currey
25	Betty Still	24	Marilyn Langenbach
28	Bert Davis	25	Blanche Johnson
			Jim Zacha

thank you!

We at Chisholm Elementary are deeply grateful to the parishioners of Trinity for their ongoing support of our teachers, students and families. Through your financial assistance, back-to-school supplies, Undie Sundays, beautiful handmade quilts, knit capes, clothing and holiday assistance – you make the difference every day.

Your contributions have touched the lives of so many students. Thank you for keeping a special place in your hearts for the children of Chisholm.

With kindest regards and best wishes for health and happiness,

Marla Griffin
School Counselor



This message from the Stewardship Team is provided for your information, encouragement, and assistance.

What does Valentines Day have to do with stewardship?

Mathews 6:21 tells us that “where your treasure is, there will your “heart” be also. There are a lot of heart cards given and received on Valentines Day, expressing enduring and faithful love. Scripture expresses God’s enduring and faithful love, and we don’t have to wait until Valentines Day to experience it. It is ours today and every day.

It is also ours to give (to steward) to assist our neighbors, our friends, our family. God’s love, receiving and giving, is part of our stewardship life.

So, what do we treasure? Who do we treasure? Is God first in our thoughts and heart? Is God our treasure? Do we practice putting God first? For assistance with the answers to these questions, please refer to Matthew Chapters 5 through 8, the sermon on the Mount.

The Stewardship Team thanks those of you who have filled out the pledge card this year, and requests those that haven’t yet done so to prayerfully consider your commitment to Gods’ work here at Trinity. It is not too late to pledge. When you have decided what amount to pledge, we ask that you complete the pledge card. Even if you do not want to write a dollar amount on the card, we request that you sign the card to show your commitment to God’s work at Trinity.

With the current Covid-19 situation, giving back to God is made easy by clicking on Trinity’s website www.trinitylutherannsb.org and completing the requested information there, or you can prayerfully write a check, place it in your church envelope and send it to the church in the mail.

However you decide to give back to God, know that God wants to be able to say to you, “Well done thou good and faithful servant.”

Happy giving!! Happy Valentines Day! And have a blessed day – every day!!

Submitted by Kate Mingle,

Stewardship Team member.



TRINITY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month	General Offering	Expenses	Difference Offering/Expense	General Fund Balance
December 2020	\$36,116	\$29,565	\$6,551	
2020 Year End	\$279,429	\$325,184	(\$45,755)	(\$26,948)

2020 YEAR END TREASURER'S REPORT

- We fell \$45,755 short of our year end expenses. Since we started the year with a balance of \$18,870, the General Fund Balance to start 2021 is a negative \$26,948.
- We were blessed with three positive actions during 2020 that helped us pay our expenses;
 - The "Road to Florida" campaign to pay for Pastor's Tim moving expenses resulted in an excess of \$7,850. This was moved to General Offerings.
 - We secured \$3,000 from the Volusia County Non-Profit Grant Program
 - The Payroll Protection Plan program loaned us \$27,741 to help defray the cost of our payroll in 2020. This amount will appear as a liability for us until it is forgiven in 2021.
- Trinity's faithful members and friends continued to provide financial support through the pandemic that began in March 2020.

2021: LOOKING FORWARD

- Pastor Tim recently sent out a letter which covers our challenges in 2021. In addition to the helpful insight he provided, the Finance Committee would encourage all teams to eliminate unnecessary spending so that we are able to balance our monthly spending with income.

ON-LINE GIVING

- On-line giving is now available thru the church website: trinitylutherannsb.org
- Please note that Trinity is assessed a fee when donations are made with a credit card. The fee varies depending up the credit card used and the amount of the donation. You may wish to add 3% - 5% to your donation to cover this cost when using a credit card.
- When on-line donations are made with a check or debit card, Trinity is not assessed a fee.

AMAZON SMILE

- Please remember that anything ordered on Amazon Smile with Trinity as the designated charity earns .05% for us. For more information, please email Paula Bernbaum at nsbide@aol.com

QUESTIONS? If you have questions or concerns about our budget and finances, please call or email Paula Bernbaum. 386-405-6668 or nsbide@aol.com

As Thomas Ken wrote in 1674: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Trinity Columbarium Update



The columbarium site is progressing with landscaping being our next project to be completed. The benches are ordered and will arrive mid-January.

PENDING PROJECTS: Sod is being researched, a water line will be run for watering plants and grass and a 5 ft wide arch is being researched. Additional ideas to help make this a more peaceful environment, please contact one of the team members

Donations for maintenance and additions that will enhance this sacred space as a quiet place of meditation and remembrance are gratefully accepted. For bookkeeping purposes, checks should be made out to "Trinity Lutheran Church Columbarium Fund".

COLUMBARIUM NICHE SUBSCRIPTION FEE

MEMBER:	\$2000.00
NON-MEMBER	\$3000.00

Includes one niche which will hold two urns, a faceplate (to covers the niche) that is engraved with name of deceased, plus year of birth and death.

APPLICATION AVAILABLE

Contact one of the following:

- Marilyn O'Connor (386-402-4304)
- Jean Haughwout (386-478-9650);
- Blanche Johnson (281-610-5818)
- Church Office (386-428-4307)

If you have an interest in joining the Columbarium team or helping with any of the preparation projects, please contact one of the Columbarium team members (names and numbers listed below).

Columbarium Ministry 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)

But as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and he will stand upon the earth at last. And after my body has decayed, yet in my body I will see God! I will see him for myself. Yes, I will see him with my own eyes. I am overwhelmed at the thought! (Job 19:25-27)

The Church Building and Office are Closed but Ministry Continues!

Following [ELCA Synod guidelines regarding the Covid-19 virus](#), Trinity Lutheran Church facilities will be closed until further notice. For pastoral care emergencies, please call the church and leave a message or contact Pastor Tim at revtimtlc@gmail.com or at (763) 439-9971. God bless, stay safe and be well.

Seeking to Keep Trinity Safe A Task Force to Guide Us Through the Pandemic

The council established a task force who will "help the congregation, council, and staff discern when to re-open Trinity for worship, fellowship, meetings, and other related activities and to develop the procedures we will establish, review, and monitor to keep the members, friends, and visitors of Trinity safe, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic." Those serving on the task force are: Larry Muchow, council president; Raeann Purcell, at-large council member; Paula Losnes (oncology nurse); Larry Schaefer (nurse anesthetist, retired); and Christine Williams (physician with emphasis in public health and pediatrics, retired). We give God thanks that we have such knowledgeable servants of the gospel who are willing to lead us through this challenging time!

Administrative Information

Office Phone: (386) 428-4307
Office E-mail: trinitylutheran485@gmail.com
Pastor Tim: revtimtlc@gmail.com
Trinity website: www.trinitylutheransb.org
Florida-Bahamas Synod www.fbsynod.org
ELCA www.elca.org

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

Welcome New Council Members 2021

Larry Muchow – President
Raeann Purcell – Vice President
Nancy Hopkins – Secretary
Rosalie Kalman – Treasurer
Bob Horak John King
Doris Will Bill Hinkle
Joe Kellermeier Colleen Sumner
Joyce Winterstein

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)