

## April 2022 Newsletter

### Sermons: The Final Word or Bread for the Journey?

In my first call I had a predecessor who only stayed at any congregation for three years before moving onto the next call. Why?

Because he ran out of sermons. Seriously. This second career pastor (his first career was as a police officer in L.A.) early in his ministry read all the lectionary texts for a given week, then crafted a sermon. This was THEE sermon and THEE message derived from those texts (cue Moses coming down the mountain with the Ten Commandments). When those texts came around again in the 3-year lectionary, he took the same sermon out, and preached it again. Since the congregation had already heard that sermon, he would begin to seek a new call. (Apparently, he felt that moving was easier than writing a new sermon. I beg to differ.)

How we approach Sunday morning, in general, and the sermon, specifically, says a lot about what we think about God. My predecessor thought that the Bible was a stagnant book, that Christ lived long ago and far away, and that the pastor's sermons were the final word on the texts.

My thinking is about 180° different from my predecessor. I believe the God revealed in the Holy Scriptures is the living Word of God who engages us as we read it or hear it, who interacts with us in our daily lives, who helps us make connections to our lives and nurtures our faith. As such, do I see my sermons as the final word? No, just the opposite. I see them as the first steps for the faithful assembled on Sunday morning to begin a holy conversation.

Trinity has called me to wrestle with the texts and discern the good news prior to Sunday morning. For some who gather, however, Sunday is the first opportunity to feast on these words of the Word. It is my hope that there is something in the sermon that engages you, so that you ponder it during the week. It is my hope that these words live with you beyond the doors of the sanctuary as you leave.

For my predecessor, the sermon was a conversation stopper. For me, I hope it is a conversation starter. If something bothers you in the sermon, talk to me. I am your brother in Christ walking on this path with you. If something challenges you, pray about the issue, talk about it with a close friend, and discern if the Holy Spirit is calling to you in a new way. If something encourages you, celebrate it and share it with others. Regardless of whether you "like" or "didn't like" the sermon, the conversation is meant to continue.

May we leave Trinity talking about the Word, Jesus Christ, who met us in the words of scripture, sermon, and liturgy, who sang in our hearts through music, who consoled us in the prayers, and who fed us at the table. May we share the good news of God and feast upon the Word. Engaging the Word *is* bread for the journey.

Pastor Tim



## Holy Week Worship

Here are the worship opportunities during Holy Week (the times in **bold** will be live-streamed):

### **Maundy Thursday** – 11 am and **7 pm**

The word *maundy* comes from the same Latin word as *mandatum*, where we get the English words mandate and commandment. It comes from the reading in John's Gospel where we are given the new commandment: to love one another.

In Jesus' day, it was typical to have a servant wash the feet of their guests. Jesus, at his own last supper, humbled himself, took on the role of servant, and washed the feet of his disciples to show his loving care for them. While we will not be washing each other's feet, we will be focusing on the role of servant and on the Last Supper. The 7 pm service will close with the stripping of the altar.

### **Good Friday** – **11 am** and 7 pm

This is the day we remember the crucifixion of our Lord. There are three main focuses for this service: The Passion account in John, Bidding Prayer and the adoration of the cross.

The Passion is a longer reading as it tells the whole account of Jesus' arrest, mock trial, suffering, and death. While we will hear Luke's version of the account on Passion Sunday, John's version is reserved every year to be read on Good Friday.

The Bidding Prayer consists of a "bid" or a focus for that petition, such as "Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ." Or, "Let us pray for those who do not believe in God." Then there will be a brief pause for us to silently pray our own individual prayers on that topic. It could be for people you know who fall into each of the categories of the bid. Then, the pastor will close with a communal prayer for that bid.

The adoration of the cross is a way for us to respond to the great gift of the cross. While the cross was originally an instrument of torture and death, due to Christ it has become transformed into a symbol of hope and new life.

### **Easter Sunday** – **9:30 am** and 11 am

Early in the morning, women came to the tomb to properly wash and care for Jesus' body. He had been crucified on a Friday, dying around 3 pm. Jewish ritual law required a person who died on a Friday to be buried before the start of the Sabbath, which began at sunset. The disciples did not have time to properly wash his body and prepare it for burial. So, they carried his body to the tomb, put him in it, and rolled the large stone over the entrance before the shofar (ram's horn) announced the beginning of the Sabbath Day. The Sabbath begins at sunset on Friday and ends at sunset on Saturday. But by the end of the Sabbath, it was night once again, so the women waited until the sun's first rays of light on Sunday morning. They wondered as they walked, "Who will roll away the stone for us?" When they got to the tomb they found... well, you will just have to come to worship, or join us via live-stream, to hear the rest of the story.

### And speaking of grief...

Participating in the Good Friday services where we hear about Jesus' death can be triggering for us, where we are confronted by the deaths of our own loved ones. Here are some items from [www.speakingofgrief.org](http://www.speakingofgrief.org), used with permission.

### What grieving people want you to know:

- It's ok to let people be sad
- Be consistent and ask nothing in return
- Offer support without expectation
- Keep at it
- Hold space for anger
- Mean what you say
- It's ok to talk about grief
- Be respectful of boundaries
- Check in regularly
- Come with curiosity rather than judgement



### What not to say:

- Platitudes such as “everything happens for a reason” or “They’re in a better place now” or “Good will come from this in time.”
- Anything that starts with “at least”
- Anything that starts with “You should....” Or “You can always....”
- I know how you feel
- Don’t cry/be strong  
They wouldn’t want you to be....
- It could be worse
- You just need to...

### What to say:

- I’m sorry you are going through this I’m here for you.
- I have no idea what to say, but I care about you.
- Do you want to talk?
- I miss him/her.
- Do you want to tell me about them?
- Take some time.
- Say nothing - hold silence
- I’m thinking of you.
- You are loved.
- We are here for you.
- It’s a hard day.
- Say nothing....just give a hug.



## **Two Services on Easter Parking**

Trinity will provide two opportunities for worship on Easter Sunday, one at our regular time of 9:30 am and the second at 11:00 am. We are asking that those who attend the first service to be mindful of those coming to the later service. This means that we are encouraging those who attend the first service not to linger afterwards, but to exit the parking lot in a timely fashion to free up parking spots for those coming for the 11:00 am service.

## **Fellowship Hall**

We will have additional seating in the Fellowship Hall, so that once the sanctuary is to capacity others can still participate in the service. We are asking some of our regular members to consider worshipping in the Fellowship Hall to free up spaces in the sanctuary for our visitors and guests.

Both being mindful of those who are needing to find parking for the second service and choosing to worship in the Fellowship Hall are tangible ways we can be hospitable to others.

## **Have You Seen Our Wheelchair?**

Prior to Covid striking, a Nova brand wheelchair was lent out and never returned. If you have information about the wheelchair, please contact the office.

## **Lutheran Disaster Response - Ukraine**

On Feb. 24, Russian forces invaded Ukraine, launching land, sea and air attacks on the capital of Kyiv and other major cities. Millions of civilians fleeing the violence are heading toward Ukraine's western districts and such neighboring countries. Over 300 civilians have been killed in the conflict so far, and damage to civilian infrastructure has left hundreds of thousands of people without water or electricity. LDR is providing humanitarian aid to the crisis. We work with partner churches providing refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits. You can give directly to them ([www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)) or through Trinity (check memo: Ukraine).



## Mission of the Month – God’s Bathhouse

The Outreach Team met to reorganize under our new structure and has decided to do a monthly ministry focus called the Mission of the Month. Each month we will highlight a ministry that we can get involved in. Sometimes it is a ministry that asks that we donate money. Sometimes it is a ministry that asks that we donate items or our time. Sometimes it is a ministry that asks for all of the above. These are all voluntary. Listen to how the Holy Spirit is moving in you, and if you are feeling urged to help in a specific way, do so. May we be a community that is blessed to be a blessing to others!



Our Mission of the Month for April will be God’s Bathhouse of Volusia County, a ministry for the homeless. God’s Bathhouse of Volusia County is a non-profit, non-partisan enterprise. Their mission is to provide a safe, secure environment for needy individuals to maintain good hygiene, promote basic clothing needs, help them remain healthy, and implement the gospel of Jesus Christ by working with economically disadvantaged individuals.

They serve Volusia County but are in New Smyrna Beach on Mondays from 11-1 at First United Methodist Church and on Thursdays, from 11-1 at the Shriners on Orange Street. They provide showers to the homeless and share whatever donated items they have, including hygiene kits made with hotel size products, new underwear and socks for males and females, feminine hygiene products, good used clothing with a high demand for shorts, sizes 30, 32, 34 and 36, over the counter pain relievers (aspirin or Tylenol), and sometimes snacks and water. Please consider donating as you feel called.



## Lenten Ministry "Feed the World"

This year Trinity's Lenten Ministry will focus on helping to end World Hunger by feeding the poor. Trinity will distribute ELCA “Feed the World” coin boxes to help us fight this hunger. Monies will be collected during the 40 days of Lent. The funds will then be sent to ELCA WORLD HUNGER as a special offering. Every gift helps big or small!!! When you Help to end hunger, you are showing God's Love to the world. 50 cents will buy one pound of seed to grow food, \$1.00 adds a chick to a family egg business, \$10.00 buys a fruit tree and \$40.00 will feed an orphaned child for a month.

Please cash in all change for bills or make checks out to Trinity Earmarked for ELCA World Hunger. Envelopes are available in the Narthex.

## Mission Partners 100 Program

Over the years, Mission Partners 100 program has been able to make a difference in our congregations and new developments of the Florida-Bahamas Synod. Trinity will partner with this program to help our Lutheran brothers and sisters across the country. To learn more about this program, feel free to visit the synod website at [www.fbsynod.com/mp100](http://www.fbsynod.com/mp100).

## Thank You

We have received a thank you from the ELCA for our donation to the Lutheran Disaster Response designated for the tornadoes. We also received a thank you from Halifax Urban Ministries for our ongoing donations.

## The Privilege of Singing God's Praises

By Kate Mingle

*"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."* 1 Peter 2:9

Choir singing in church has been a part of my life since I was in the first grade, singing with my classmates for worship service on Sundays and presenting the Christmas Story with the entire parochial school on Christmas Eve each year. In the eighth grade I was asked to participate in the adult choir in the tenor section. There were only two of us but we rationalized we had quality, not quantity.

Music was synonymous with joy to me and I was encouraged to pursue it by grandparents and parents, all lifelong church-going individuals. There are numerous biblical references about making a joyful noise unto the Lord. That message is not just for those with God-given talent, but for each person to discover his or her own way to praise God. As scripture says, "Pray, praise and give thanks." Each one of us can (and should) do that. All that is required is the will to do so.

We have been blessed with Brian Larson as the current Cantor of the choir, keeping us focused on the Word with weekly devotions and music selections appropriate to the Lessons of the church calendar.

The choir has suffered several losses in recent months and is looking for voices to enhance its praise efforts. Would you consider being a part of this area of worship? We are not a performance group. We are God's children putting our best efforts forward to praise God. Hope you give this request prayerful consideration.

## Cantor's Notes [April 2022]

**“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.

***Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded*** is an Easter text included in the new Lutheran hymnal supplement *All Creation Sings*. The author, Delores Dufner, OSB (b. 1939), is a writer of liturgical, scripturally based hymn and song texts which have a broad ecumenical appeal. The middle child of five, she was born and raised on a farm in the Red River Valley of North Dakota. She attended a one-room country school in which she learned to read music and play the tonette, later studying piano and organ. Delores was a school music teacher, private piano and organ instructor, parish organist/choir director, and has served as a liturgical music consultant in Minnesota and Australia!

The sisters' choir at St. Benedict's Monastery in St. Cloud, MN, customarily sings a festive prelude to the community's morning prayer service on Easter Sunday. Gathered in a semicircle around resurrection. This hymn was written for one of those celebrations. The refrain describes Easter as a day of delight, beauty, wonder, and splendor. The stanzas indicate the appropriate response: singing! Each of the six lines of the two stanzas begins with the imperative "Sing!"

*Day of delight and beauty unbounded, tell the news, the gospel spread!  
Day of all wonder, day of all splendor, praise Christ risen from the dead!*

*Sing of the sun from darkness appearing;  
sing of the seed from barren earth greening;  
sing of creation, alleluia!*

*Sing of the stream from Jesus' side flowing;  
sing of the saints in water made holy;  
sing of salvation, alleluia!*

*Day of delight and beauty unbounded, tell the news, the gospel spread!  
Day of all wonder, day of all splendor, praise Christ risen from the dead!*

*Sing now of mourning turned into dancing;  
sing now the myst'ry, hope of our glory;  
sing with thanksgiving, alleluia!*

*Sing now of fasting turned into feasting;  
sing the Lord's favor lasting forever;  
sing, all things living, alleluia!*

Cantate Domino! (Sing to the Lord!)

Brian Larson



## **Monday Morning Bible Study**

We meet via Zoom at 11 am (Eastern Time) on Mondays to study the lessons that will be used in worship the following Sunday. It is a good way to dwell in the word and reflect more deeply on the lessons. Here are the Monday dates and the assigned readings for each week:

### **Date of Bible Study – Readings we will be studying**

#### **Monday, March 28 – readings for Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Isaiah 43:16-21 *The LORD gives water in the wilderness to the chosen people*  
Psalm 126 *Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. (Ps. 126:5)*  
Philippians 3:4b-14 *To know Christ and his resurrection, to share in his sufferings*  
John 12:1-8 *Mary anoints Jesus for his burial*

#### **Monday, April 4 – readings for Palm/Passion Sunday**

Luke 19:28-40 *Entrance into the final days*  
Isaiah 50:4-9a *The servant of the LORD submits to suffering*  
Psalm 31:9-16 *Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)*  
Philippians 2:5-11 *Humbled to the point of death on a cross*  
Luke 22:14--23:56 *The passion of the Lord*

#### **Monday, April 11 - readings for Resurrection of Our Lord: EASTER**

Acts 10:34-43 *God raised Jesus on the third day*  
Isaiah 65:17-25 (alternate) *New heavens and a new earth*  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 *This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.*  
1 Corinthians 15:19-26 *Christ raised from the dead, the first fruits*  
Luke 24:1-12 *The women proclaim the resurrection*

#### **Monday, April 18 - readings for the Second Sunday of Easter**

Acts 5:27-32 *The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus*  
Psalm 118:14-29 *You are my God, and I will exalt you. (Ps. 118:28)*  
Revelation 1:4-8 *Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, is coming*  
John 20:19-31 *Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ*

#### **Monday, April 25 - readings for the Third Sunday of Easter**

Acts 9:1-6 [7-20] *Paul's conversion, baptism, and preaching*  
Psalm 30 *You have turned my wailing into dancing. (Ps. 30:11)*  
Revelation 5:11-14 *The song of the living creatures to the Lamb*  
John 21:1-19 *Jesus appears to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias*

### **Zoom information for the Monday Bible Study (link can be found on Trinity's website, too!)**

#### **Join Zoom Meeting via computer**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87504774403?pwd=VUpUUGJPRkNlVVlyahhVVSXBHUKh3UT09>

#### **Join Zoom Meeting via telephone**

1 646 558 8656, Meeting ID: 875 0477 4403



## God's Economy

A Special Educational Three-Week Series

A recent Sunday Study had us exploring the ZacTax curriculum sponsored by the Council for World Mission, Lutheran World Federation, World Communion of Reformed Churches, World Council of Churches, and World Methodist Council. It brought up good and healthy questions about our economic systems in the world.



In this study, we will look at numerous scripture passages that support various economic systems. Come, join us, and see what God has to say about who owns what and how we share our wealth and more. All we ask is that you come with an open mind to hear the word of God. Bring your Bibles and if you don't have one, we will find one for you. Oh, and bring your questions, too! Those are always helpful for our discussions!

We will meet at in-person in the fellowship hall or on Zoom at 6 pm. The dates are: April 25, May 2 and May 9.



## In Remembrance of our Beloved Member



Lyn Carter died early in the afternoon on Tuesday, March 15. She was 77. Music meant a lot to Lyn and she was active in both the choir and the bell choir. She was a disciple who regularly attended our Monday Bible study. A memorial service is planned for Saturday, April 9 at 11 am. Please keep Lyn's family in your prayers.





## April Birthdays

2	Artie Slack	22	Evelyn Stowe
5	David Faller	23	Liz Slack
9	Rita Lipinski	28	Jonathan Weinrich
10	Mary Mathews	30	Tyler Hickling
12	Karen Beiersdorf	30	Grace Kellermeier
15	Judy Berthiaume	30	Timothy Sherry

## 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 God for letting us share in your joy.

God bless you and keep you and shine Christ's light upon you.

With love we sing together happy birthday to you.

### Making A Difference

We, Trinity Lutheran, have received \$30,000 in Memorial Funds from the Grace DeVoe Estate and the Church Council concurred with the recommendation from Kate Mingle (Executrix) that we, Trinity, give some of the money to charitable organizations. The Council decided to tithe (10%) of the amount received. The following is a list of the organizations and the amount given:

Florida Bahama Synod Disaster Relief (Tornados): \$1500.00

Halifax Urban Ministry: \$250.00

Gifts of Love: \$250.00

NSB Police Athletic League: \$250.00

The Peace Project: \$250.00

Cudas Unhooked: \$250.00

God's Bathhouse: \$250.00

Do you or someone that you know have a heart for working with children? If so, Knight's Christian Academy is looking for you! Applications are available on their website and also in the school office!

**NOW HIRING!**

Job Position:

**PRESCHOOL AIDE**

**FULL TIME**

**APPLY NOW**

**Contact:**

Knight's Christian Academy  
[www.knightschristianacademy.org](http://www.knightschristianacademy.org)  
 386-426-0800



We would like to extend a thank you to everyone who participated in the Property Clean Up. We appreciate your efforts to keep Trinity's property looking beautiful!

### TRINITY COLUMBARIUM



#### **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)
- Church Office (386-428-4307)

#### **Administrative Information**

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 Florida-Bahamas Synod [www.fbsynod.org](http://www.fbsynod.org)  
 ELCA [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

**Pastor:** Rev. Tim Bernard  
**Cantor:** Brian Larson  
**Office Administrator:** Mary Parada  
**Custodian:** Laura Jones