

## May 2022 Newsletter

### Answered Prayers

I once had a parishioner going through a serious health crisis. I asked him, "Ray, do you want to be put on the church's prayer list?"

He said, "Heavens no! I have seen the list and some people's names are on them for months and months. That just demonstrates that God does not answer our prayers."

I said, "God does answer our prayers. Sometimes God answers our prayers the way we want and other times God answers our prayers in ways we did not expect."

Over the years, I have thought about that brief conversation. Perhaps we, in the church, don't communicate the outcomes of our prayers often enough, so that people like Ray have a better opinion about communal prayer. Here are answered prayers that came to me in one "Holy Spirit moment."

I was recently talking with a woman who is planning on joining Trinity. She lives not too far from the church, but she stated that she no longer drives and that she needs a ride on occasion when her sister can't drive her. I got her address, but not knowing where everybody lives, I thought I would ask others who have lived here longer for possible names of people that I could ask to pick her up. I also prayed about it.

During this time, I was also praying for Trinity's hospitality. We had a newly retired gentleman attend one of our Saturday evening services. I got his name and number and called him the following week. He said, "There was no one to welcome me, no one to hand me a bulletin, no one to tell me if I was welcome to receive communion or how it is distributed. No one talked to me afterwards, other than you." Ouch. I have since heard from a now long-time member that she and her husband came to Trinity for over a year before someone welcomed them.

There is nothing I, as your pastor, would like more than for Trinity to be the most hospitable congregation in the area. Where people are welcomed, not just by the pastor, but by multiple people: greeters and ushers, certainly, but also by each of our members. Where everybody greets each other, whether they are your pastor, your pastor's wife, a long-time neighbor and friend, someone you have seen before but can't remember their name, or somebody who is here for the very first time. Especially those who are here for the very first time. I prayed about this too.

One day I was sitting down talking with another woman who wants to join Trinity. In our conversation, she said, "I have always been active in my previous congregations and I would like to do so at Trinity, too. Perhaps I could be a greeter or an usher." One answered prayer, check.

Then she told me where she lived and it sounded very close to the woman needing a ride. I had my computer there, so we looked it up on the map and they live a block away from each other!



I asked if she would consider giving this woman a ride to church, if needed, and she said, “Yes, of course.” Two answered prayers, check, check.

The very next Sunday as I was greeting people after worship there were just a few people in between them. When I started to tell the one woman that I found someone who could bring her to church, the other woman came forward, introduced herself, and then they swapped numbers and talked.

Not all of our prayers are handled so quickly and easily, but these were. The Holy Spirit is alive and well and doing the work of making connections, building relationships, and helping the community to grow.

In addition to that, we had a number of people who stepped forward to help greet and usher people on Easter Sunday. It is a great way to get to know others in the congregation and to serve. My on-going prayer: May we have that many people welcoming people at every service, every activity, every event. Will you consider serving? Please sign up at the ‘Servant Sign-up’ table just outside of the office door, so that we have more answered prayers.

Pastor Tim

### **Mission of the Month – Lutheran Disaster Response: Eastern European Crisis**

Trinity’s Outreach Ministry Team is focusing our attention on one mission every month that we can contribute toward. Some ministries ask for donated items. Other missions need funds. Some need both. Please give as you are able. The May Mission of the Month is:



**Lutheran Disaster Response**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

### **Lutheran Disaster Response – Eastern European Crisis**

Lutheran Disaster Response brings God’s hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

**The Situation:** On Feb. 24, Russian forces invaded Ukraine, launching land, sea and air attacks. Russia has launched air strikes across the country, including on the capital of Kyiv and other major cities. Millions of people fleeing the violence of Russia’s war against Ukraine and are moving toward Ukraine’s western districts and such neighboring countries as Poland, Moldova, Slovakia, Romania and Hungary. There are major humanitarian concerns for both internally displaced people and refugees. Many of these Ukrainians fleeing their homes need shelter and such basic necessities as food, water and toiletries. Care for people also includes pastoral and psychological support to address the trauma they’ve endured.

**Our Response:** Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as this Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis created by Russia’s war against Ukraine. These partners provide refugees with immediate

support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has joined other religious leaders from Europe and around the globe in issuing an interfaith call for peace in the region.

### **What you can do:**

**Pray:** Please pray for those in Ukraine, Russia and neighboring countries that have been affected by the war in Ukraine. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need.

**Give:** Your gifts designated for "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" will be used entirely (100%) to provide support for people impacted by conflict in the region. You can give online at: [www.trinitylutherannsb.org](http://www.trinitylutherannsb.org) or write a check with "LDR-Eastern Europe" in the memo.

### **The Sunday Study**

We will be taking some time off from The Sunday Study as we discern what our next book will be. Keep watch in the announcements for the next opportunity to dive deeply into a topic and discuss it with others.

### **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, May 2 – Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 9:36-43 *Peter raises Tabitha/Dorcas from the dead*  
Psalm 23 *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)*  
Revelation 7:9-17 *A white-robed multitude sings before the Lamb*  
John 10:22-30 *Jesus promises eternal life to his sheep*

##### **Monday, May 9 – Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 11:1-18 *Peter's vision: God give the Gentiles repentance that leads to life*

Psalm 148 *The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)*

Revelation 21:1-6 *New heaven, new earth: springs of living water in the new Jerusalem*

John 13:31-35 *Jesus gives a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you*

##### **Monday, May 16 – Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 16:9-15 *Lydia and her household are baptized by Paul*

Psalm 67 *Let the nations be glad and sing for joy. (Ps. 67:4)*

Revelation 21:10, 22--22:5 *The Lamb is the light of the city of God*

John 14:23-29 *The Father will send the Holy Spirit*

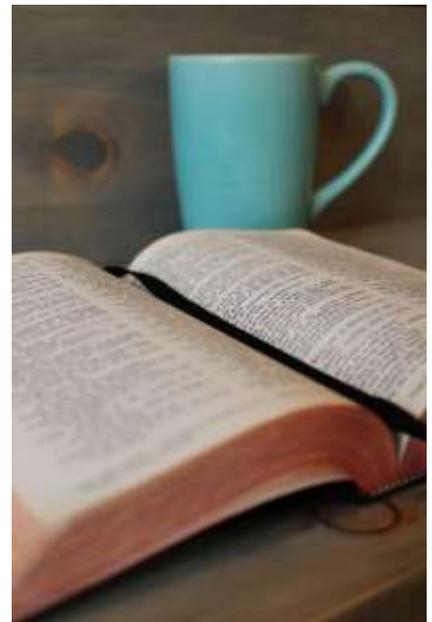
##### **Monday, May 23 – No Bible Study – Pastor Tim on vacation – Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Acts 16:16-34 *While in prison, Paul speaks to the jailer, who is then baptized*

Psalm 97 *Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous. (Ps. 97:12)*

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21 *Blessed are those who wash their robes*

John 17:20-26 *Jesus prays that the disciples will be one and abide in his love*



## Monday, May 30 – No Bible Study – Memorial Day – Day of Pentecost

Genesis 11:1-9 *God destroys the tower of Babel*

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b *Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. (Ps. 104:30)*

Acts 2:1-21 *Filled with the Spirit to proclaim God's deeds*

John 14:8-27 *The Father will give you another Advocate, the Spirit of truth*

### 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. Join us via Zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89047749077>

### Pastor Tim on Vacation

Pastor Tim will be on vacation May 20-28. His oldest son, Natanael, has suffered with severe epilepsy since the age of 10. He is on a number of medications and has a Vagus Nerve Stimulator (VNS), all of which help reduce the number and severity of the seizures, but he still has 3-5 seizures per week. In May, Natanael will have a Deep Brain Stimulator (DBS) implanted at the Mayo Clinic, which we hope will reduce the numbers and severity of the seizures even more. Please hold Natanael in your prayers. Pastor Jack Ottoson will be the on-call pastor and will be leading worship on May 22.

The **Women of the ELCA** at Trinity invite all women to attend our annual daughter's luncheon on Saturday, May 7 at 11:00. Tickets will be on sale after worship for a \$5 donation. Lunch and entertainment will be provided. We will be collecting quarters, laundry soap and dryer sheets for our new laundry ministry. Please plan to attend and bring a friend. Remember, all women are daughters! Contact Raeann Purcell at 386.212.7933 or Judy Driesbaugh at 570.650.3478 for questions.



## Listening to the Cares of Others

By Evy Okerstrom

Easter Sunday, after the first service, I was asked to sell tickets for the upcoming Daughters Luncheon in May. I did not mind doing it, but when I was sitting on the porch after the service, I felt a bit nervous getting myself into the selling mode! I suddenly realized there were a lot of people I did not know. However, something came over me...maybe the Holy Spirit? I got up and started to mingle with the people coming out of the church. Looking for smiling, happy faces, I asked each person if they wanted to buy a ticket. A few did but most were on their way home.

One person told me she was leaving this week to return home up north. She was not looking forward to it because her home congregation was not the same; the congregation was coming apart. She was sad when she told me this. It made me sad, too, so I told her that we would be here when she came back in the fall. That was the end of our conversation, and she was gone.

Looking back at my half-hour of talking and meeting people, that person stood out in my mind. I was glad I was able to reassure her we would be here when she came back unlike what she was going to.

*We will be here in the fall with God's help and with the support of the many faithful saints who attend Trinity and contribute toward God's ministry and mission through us. We are grateful for every gift, no matter the size, as it shows commitment to what God is doing through us. Trinity is running behind in our mission plan, though. As we head into the summer months, when a number of our people go north, could we all "catch up" on our regular giving or give an extra gift as we move into summer? Every gift helps and together we can do this!*

*We will be here in the fall with God's help and with people like Evy who took the time to listen. She listened to the woman's fears and deep concerns about her congregation up north. I am sure the person will return to Trinity in the fall, thanks be to Evy and the grace-filled ministry we do together.*

*But, what if our whole congregation, every member, paused to listen to others? What if we gave of ourselves so that others felt valued and heard? What if we paused in our day to listen to another person – whether it is a cashier, a server, or a neighbor – and offered our time and a listening ear as a gift of grace in our busy, hectic world? If we all gave of our time in this way, we will be radiating the love of Christ to others. And isn't that what we are about? To care for others as Christ first cared for us? May it be so, thanks be to God!*

Pastor Tim



**There will be a Feedback Session after church on Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup>. We hope that you can attend!**

### Thank You from Our Community

We have received letters of gratitude and thanks from CUDAS UnHooked and God's Bathhouse. With the money received from Grace DeVoe's estate, we donated a tithe of \$250 to each. Grace's generosity continues to impact lives!



### Thank you from our Beloved Member

Thanks to Trinity Lutheran Church (the people are the church), for praying for Bob during his recent illness. Thanks, too, for all the messages of sympathy, condolences and encouragement sent to me over this past month. I am more than appreciative. "God is good" Romans 8:28.  
Pat Seaton

### Thank You to our Music Ministry Members

We give God thanks for commitment and service of our Cantor, Brian Larson, and all those who "rang and sang" for all of our Holy Week and Easter services. They were there for two services on each day of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. Their commitment to ringing and singing God's praises makes our worship experience fuller, deeper, and richer. When you see them again, thank them for sharing their musical gifts with us! (And if you would like to join them, there is always room for more!)





## Cantor's Notes [May 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.

**HOPE. Grab it. Hold it. Share it!**

Hope of the World is included in the new Lutheran worship supplement All Creation Sings. It was also in our former hymnal, the green LBW. This winning entry by a groundbreaking woman theologian was selected from over five hundred others in a search for a hymn to be used at the Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Evanston, IL in October 1954. The theme of the conference was "Christ, the Hope of the World." Appropriately, it was published in English, French, and German.

Each stanza begins with an address to Christ as "Hope of the world." This choice presented a challenge because it is not one of Christ's customary biblical names or titles. It pushed the author to consider aspects of Christ's life and teaching and how they relate to current needs of the world. For its first singers, the first stanza evoked the still-fresh memories of World War II as well as the tensions of the Cold War, which were only slightly reduced by the recent end to fighting in Korea.

One of the most evocative images is at the very center: the literal down-to-earth image "afoot on dusty highways" and "walk close beside us."

Georgia Harkness (1891- 1974) was born in Harkness, NY, a town named for her grandfather! Because of her teaching, writing, and work for the World Council of Churches, her influence was wide ranging, and she wrote more than thirty books dealing with a broad array of theological subjects. Concerned to be understood by a wide audience, Harkness wrote with clarity and refused to cloak her thought in obscure academic jargon. She was a deacon and elder in the Methodist Church.

Hope of the world, O Christ of great compassion, speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent.  
Save us, your people, from consuming passion, who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.

Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven, bringing to hungry souls the bread of life:  
still let your Spirit unto us be given to heal earth's wounds and end all bitter strife.

Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways, showing to wand'ring souls the path of light:  
walk close beside us lest the tempting byways lure us away from you to endless night.

Hope of the world, who by your cross did save us from death and deep despair, from guilt and sin:  
we render back the love your mercy gave us; work through our lives to bring your purpose in.

Hope of the world, Christ ris'n from death victorious, who by this triumph conquered grief and pain:  
we would be faithful to your gospel glorious; you are our Lord and will forever reign!

Cantate Domino! (Sing to the Lord!)

Brian Larson



## May Birthdays

3	Linda Muchow	17	Betty Srock
4	Larry Muchow	20	Doris Lawrence
5	Marcia Evans	21	Annette Sowder
9	Roy Coons	24	Ron Jacobsen
10	Scott Newell	26	Debra Wolford
10	Doris Will	29	Larry Schaefer
17	Toni Currey		

## 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.

## 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

Office Phone: (386) 428-4307

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Pastor Tim: [revtimtlc@gmail.com](mailto:revtimtlc@gmail.com)

Trinity website: [www.trinitylutheransb.org](http://www.trinitylutheransb.org)

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