

February 2023 Newsletter

We Are Church Together: Goodbye, Farewell, and Amen

In February 1983, the final M*A*S*H episode aired to one of the largest television audiences ever. The 2 ½ hour movie chronicled the transition from war to peace of many of its main characters. The episode was titled Goodbye, Farewell, and Amen.



I remembered this title and I thought it would be a fitting one to use for this time of transition. How we say “goodbye” to each other matters. In fact, many church leaders will tell you that **healthy grieving** prepares us for **healthy beginnings**.

In 1969, the late Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, wrote a book titled “On Death and Dying.” In that classic, best-selling book, she outlined five stages in the grieving process. Denial, Anger, Bargaining, Depression, and Acceptance. Over the past couple of weeks since Deborah and I announced that we are accepting a new call, I have heard from many people whose emotions are all over the map and all of them are perfectly natural. Some have been in denial, saying, “You’re not really leaving now, are you?” Some have been angry saying, “I feel hurt because you are leaving just when things were picking up.” Some have been bargaining saying, “Is there anything we could do to make you stay?” Some have been deeply saddened by the news, while others have said, “I am happy for the two of you, but I am sad for us.” Again, all of these are normal and natural reactions to saying goodbye. Kubler-Ross’s book helped many describe what is going on in the grief process, but even Kubler-Ross, when she herself was dying, said that grief is much wilder, and more unmanageable, than the five stages she laid out. I mention all of this to you so that you honor whatever it is that you are feeling. It is ok.

So how do we say goodbye? In the Church we do so through ritual, communal recognition, and individual conversation.

Healthy grieving

Ritual – Deacon Connie Schmucker, Assistant to the Bishop for the Florida-Bahamas Synod will be with us in worship on Sunday, February 26. She will lead us in a rite of *Thanksgiving at the Conclusion of a Call*.

Communal Recognition – On Sunday, February 19, following worship we will have our pre-Lent Shrove Sunday brunch to which all are invited. During that time there will be an opportunity to share with each other some words of thanksgiving and gratitude to each other.

Individual Conversation – Throughout the month of February, let us find time to say our goodbyes, whether that is in brief conversations over the phone, or in passing on Sunday, or

contact Pastor Tim to schedule a time to chat. All of these are more personal ways to say our goodbyes.

Healthy beginnings

What are some ways that Trinity as a congregation can demonstrate to clergy candidates that you are a sound and healthy congregation? There is little that one can do alone, but there is a lot that all of you can do together. And much of it comes down to stewardship. How the people of Trinity use their Time, Talent, and Treasures.

Time – Whether you are a long-time member, newer member, snowbird or other, commit to coming to worship (unless you are feeling ill or are ill) every single week. Remember, will not only be interviewing prospective pastors, but they will be interviewing you as well. They will look at attendance records to see how well people have been attending worship. Besides, we are now on camera. Prospective pastors will be looking at your worship videos. Do they see a sanctuary pleasantly full? Or do they see a sanctuary mostly empty? What they see is up to you.

Talent – We all know that families are both functional and dysfunctional, but regardless of how we function, we often step up to help one of our family members who are in need and help them out. Congregations are much like families in this respect, so could you help out the family here? We have a need each and every week for greeters, ushers, readers, assisting ministers, altar guild, communion visitors, and we have need for people to serve on the ministry teams of Hospitality, Outreach, Praise, Education, Property, and Stewardship. If you don't know who to contact to serve or ask questions about what the task all entails, you can always contact Mary Parada in the Church Office and she can get you in touch with the right person who can answer your questions. For many things, you can also sign up on the clipboards on the Servant Sign-Up table just outside the Church Office door. It is that simple and Trinity needs you. Prospective pastors will look at past bulletins and they want to see many people who are serving, not just the same names over and over again.

Treasure – You are a generous people! Continue to be! Prospective pastors will be looking at a congregation's financial giving as a sign of congregational health. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21) The opposite is also true. Where your heart is there is where you will put your treasure. During interims, people often give less because they are unsure about the ministry. That is human nature. But is Trinity just a gathering of a bunch of humans who act like other humans, or are we a new creation through the death and resurrection of Christ? If it is the latter, then our giving should remain the same or increase. That shows prospective candidates that your mission comes from God regardless of whether you have an interim pastor or a called pastor. So, continue to give generously. Give via cash, check, credit card, stocks, IRAs, and please, please, please remember to put Trinity in your estate plans. Trinity is in better financial shape now because of Grace DeVoe's estate and others who have left considerable gifts, thanks be to God!



Finally, thank you. Thank you for the past three years of doing ministry together. Please pray for Deborah and me as we continue to serve in Christ's Church and we will continue to pray for you as you enter the interim and call processes. Thank you.

Goodbye, farewell, and Amen.
Pastor Tim and Deborah

**We Are Church Together:
Communion Visitation Help Needed**

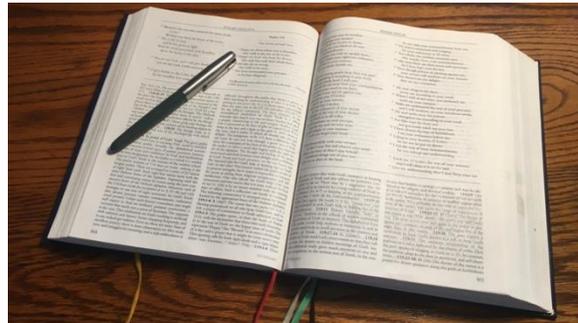
Do you have a few hours a month that you could give to help the family out? We have a number of homebound members who desire holy communion monthly. Michael Lawrence has stepped up to coordinate this ministry, but he needs your help. We have 13 homebound members and only 4 communion visitors. We could easily use 4-5 more. If you are interested, please contact Michael at (410) 917-4452; lawoptic@verizon.net. Thank you!

Offerings

Contributions to Trinity are always greatly appreciated. If using a third party (example: Wells Fargo Clearing Services, Fidelity Charitable, etc.) to make your contribution, please make sure that your name and how you would like the funds to be distributed are clearly stated on the check memo. This information helps to ensure that contribution statements are accurate. Thank you in advance for your help! Please contact the office with questions.

**We Are Church Together:
Monday 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. The link is:



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87504774403?pwd=VUpUUGJPRkNlVlYhHhVSXBHUKh3UT09>
or you can go to our website (www.trinitylutherannsb.org) and use the link provided.

*After Pastor Tim leaves, it will be up to the interim pastor to determine whether this continues or something else. **You** can always start one...*

**Date of Bible Study – Readings we will be studying
Monday, February 6 – Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 *Choose life*

Psalms 119:1-8 *Happy are they who follow the teaching of the Lord. (Ps. 119:1)*

1 Corinthians 3:1-9 *God gives the growth*

Matthew 5:21-37 *The teaching of Christ: forgiveness*

Monday, February 13 – Transfiguration Sunday (No Bible Study; Pastor Tim off)

Exodus 24:12-18 *Moses enters the cloud of God’s glory on Mount Sinai*

Psalm 2 *You are my son; this day have I begotten you. (Ps. 2:7)*

2 Peter 1:16-21 *The apostle’s message confirmed on the mount of transfiguration*

Matthew 17:1-9 *Revelation of Christ as God’s beloved Son*

Monday, February 20 – First Sunday in Lent (Final Bible Study with Pastor Tim)

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 *Eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil*

Psalm 32 *Mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord. (Ps. 32:10)*

Romans 5:12-19 *Death came through one; life comes through one*

Matthew 4:1-11 *The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days*

We Are Church Together:

Mission of the Month: Gifts of Love

We regularly collect food for this program, but hope to focus on their needs and learning more about this ministry. Gifts of Love is a community coalition serving Edgewater, New Smyrna Beach, Oak Hill and surrounding areas. The mission statement is Gifts of Love Food Bank represents the hands of God in helping those less fortunate meet basic needs.



Foods to Donate:

Applesauce	Canned Vegetables	Rice
Canned Beans	Crackers	Shelf stable and powdered milk
Canned Chicken	Fruit (canned or dried)	Soup, Stew, Chili
Canned fish (salmon/tuna)	Granola Bars	Pasta
Canned meat (Spam/ham)	Instant Mashed Potatoes	Cooking Oils
Cereal	Meals in a Box	

Other Donations:

Baby wipes	Toothpaste	Hand Sanitizer	Deoderant
Body soap	Toothbrushes	Feminine Products	Shampoo
Diapers	Toilet Paper	Laundry Soap	Conditioner

Easter Flower Orders- We will begin taking orders for flowers that will adorn our sanctuary on Easter beginning February 26th. You can purchase an Easter flower in honor or in memory of someone. Please make sure to include this on your order form, which will be included in your bulletin for the February 26th service. Additional forms will be in the Narthex.

Centennial Birthday

We would like to acknowledge Jacqueline Treadwell and her 100th birthday on February 20th. We would love to flood her mailbox with birthday wishes! If you would like to participate, her address is 628 Middlebury Loop, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168.

We Are Church Together:

Thank you for your Christmas generosity!

On behalf of Cantor Brian, Office Administrator Mary, Custodian Laura, and me, Pastor Tim, we thank you for your generous contribution to the Staff Christmas Fund. We see this as a sign of appreciation for all the work we do for Trinity throughout the year. We are deeply humbled and truly thankful. Bless you!

We had a very successful Christmas season thanks to the generosity of members and friends at Trinity. We successfully fulfilled holiday wishes for 17 children and their families from the Giving Tree. We also would like to acknowledge Doris Will and the work she put into obtaining a Thrivent grant of \$250, which she contributed towards the Giving Tree. Thank you for your time and efforts to helping the Children of Chisholm!

In addition, \$1,038.34 was donated towards food for needy families. These contributions will be given to deserving families in the form of giftcards during the holidays. We are so very thankful to everyone who was able to contribute.

We would like thank Rebecca Sawyer for the 17 quilts that she made for the children of Chisholm. Each child received gifts from the Giving Tree in addition to a beautiful handmade quilt. Through the help of all who participated, we were able to create warm and happy holiday memories for many families within our community.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Doris Will for her work in obtaining a Thrivent grant which covers the cost of the hand sanitizer kept in the pews of the church. We thank you so very much for your work to keep our congregation healthy and safe!



Thank you to the choir, bell choir and Brian for the outstanding music that they provide for us each week. They are such an important part of our Church service and are truly appreciated. The congregation is moved by them as witnessed in their clapping during the service over recent weeks. We want them to know just how much we love and appreciate them!



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Transition Questions?

Do you have questions about the Call process? The Florida Bahama Synod has a very detailed guide that provides information about every step of the process to finding a new pastor. You can read more at the Florida-Bahamas Synod’s website: <https://fbsynod.com/resources/transitions/>. Rest assured that the Council, and once appointed, the Call Committee, will be in regular contact to keep the congregation up to date with the call process. Please use this time of transition to hold the congregation of Trinity in your prayers, along with the Synod and other members of clergy who will assist us.

New Ministry Opportunity

Rebecca Sawyer is using her natural gift of creating beautiful quilts to bless others. She aspires to share quilts with friends, members and future friends of Trinity who may be in need of comfort. Her hope is to provide hope and warmth while reminding people that they are loved. Judy Driesbaugh has partnered with Rebecca with this ministry by delivering quilts. If you have a suggestion for someone to receive a quilt, please contact Judy Driesbaugh or the office.



Synod Assembly 2023

We would like to extend a thank you to Karen Wenrich and Judy Driesbaugh for stepping up to take responsibility for representing Trinity in voting at the Synod Assembly. This will take place in Orlando this June 8-10. Our voting members will elect a bishop and also people to serve on the Synod Council and the Consultation Committee. Additional information will be provided by the Synod Council relating to the election of the bishop as we move closer to the period leading up to the assembly.

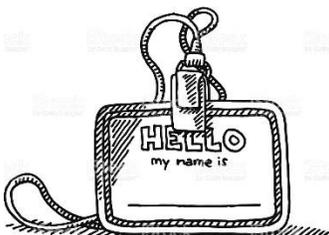


Deborah Gelerter will be ordained on Sunday, February 12, 2023 at 3 p.m. at St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Tarpon Springs. We will have the ordination live streamed in the Fellowship Hall for those who cannot attend in person. Refreshments will be provided. Please join us to celebrate “in spirit” with Deborah on her accomplishments!



An important message from the Hospitality Team...

Please wear your name tag every time you attend Trinity!
If you need a new name tag or have lost yours, please reach out to the Hospitality Team or visit the Welcome Table before Sunday worship.



Save the date!
Florida-Bahamas Women
of the ELCA
Fall Gathering

HOLY GROUND -

GOD STILL SPEAKS

November 10-
12, 2023

Warren Willis
Retreat Center
Fruitland Park



Psalm 46: 10

"Be still, and know that I am God!
I will be honored by every nation.
I will be honored throughout the world."

February Birthdays



2	Joan Norris	17	Loretta Wolff
3	Fay Faller	18	Dale Armstrong
5	Alison Mangiafico	20	Jacqueline Treadwell
	Carol Topham	21	Nancy Hopkins
9	Brittany Wolford	24	Louise Armstrong
11	Judy Driesbaugh		Al Schroth
14	Jocelynn Rose	25	Betty Still
16	Bob Horak	28	Bert Davis
17	Tammy 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



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

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)

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