

The Rev. Bettye Wolinski, Pastor

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MAY 2017

Pastor's Ponderings

Pastor Bettye Wolinski

We find ourselves this month on the “other side” of Easter. In 2012, this other side of Easter meant a lot to me as I said good bye to my father. He had surgery on Easter Sunday at 8 in the morning as I was preaching at the early service. He was taken home to be with our Lord, on the other side of Easter, seven days later. Whenever Easter falls in April, I relive that Easter moment and am thankful for parents who made sure I grew up understanding the “other side.” Here is an excerpt from an article I wrote that Easter:

This night a friend called from Florida and asked me how it felt to live out the message of the resurrection. So far I have come to this conclusion: there is a peace on this side of the empty tomb that cannot truly be appreciated until we say good bye to a loved one in death. The Gospel message is simply and truly the only consolation we have. As frail humans our bodies and minds succumb to the inevitable ending as part of this human condition. Was it not for the promises of the resurrection, who could bear this inevitability? My father's life was filled with grasping these promises in preparation for this one day, this one moment in time which came at 4:10 p.m. on the 15th of April. My peace is believing in the peace he taught me, and lived out unto death; the gospel story as seen on the other side of Easter.

Do we leave our children, our grandchildren and each other with this “other side” feeling? Are our lives lived out in hope and joy so as to teach people of all ages that life is not about what we did or do, but rather about what has been done for us at the cross and empty tomb? After the resurrection glow of last Sunday, we should be striving to pick up the promises left to us, teach the promises, live out the promises in joy.

My heart is saddened when we forget to love each other as we have been loved. My spirit aches when we do not forgive as we have been forgiven. My most sincere fear occurs when we as adults stop realizing that the truths of the other side of Easter can be celebrated every Sunday together as a community of faith.



Our “numbers” were good on Easter morning—275. On the other side of this day, what will we look like? The human condition is a fragile one and needs the constant feeding that comes from a community of faith. Who can you bring to the “other side” this coming year?

Serving in Resurrection glow!

—Pastor Bettye

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May News from Christian Education and Family Ministry

Stephanie Angles

MOBILE MAR-LU RIDGE

Vacation Bible School is June 19 to 23. Registration forms for are now available. Completed registration forms are due April 28. Children ages six through 12 are invited to attend. Participation in the camp is free to the campers. The hours are from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. Volunteers are needed to make this week a success. Sign up sheets for volunteers are located in a three-ring binder in Fellowship Hall, outside the Parlor, and in the extended Narthex. We are accepting sponsorships for campers. Sponsor a camper for just \$5 a day, or \$25 for the week.

CHILDREN HELPING CHILDREN

Thank you to all who donated to Children Helping Children last week. More than \$250 was collected in March by the youth. We are hopeful that we will be able to help multiple children to have a Merry Christmas this year. Thank you for your generosity! Next collection will be taken on the Youth Sunday coming up on May 28.

SCHOLARSHIP

Our scholarship recipient will be announced May 21.

FAMILY MINISTRY ACTIVITY—HARC HIKE

Come have some fun Saturday, June 10, 2017, on the C&O Canal Towpath to benefit HARC (Hagerstown Area Religious Council) and Micah's Backpack.

This fully supported hike features 4K, 10K and half marathon routes. Enjoy snacks and drink refills and course support. All hikes will be along the Maryland section of the C&O Canal Towpath and will end at Shepherd Springs Retreat Center, where we'll enjoy food, fun and friendship.

Proceeds benefit HARC, whose initiatives include early childhood education and well-being programs, and support and connection of area churches and faith communities, and Micah's Backpack, a program to feed hungry elementary school students. Registration forms are available or you may register online at www.harccoalition.org/hike.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER AND STUDENT RECOGNITION

Sunday School Teacher and Student Recognition will be held on May 7, the last day of Sunday School.



My thanks . . .

The events of this past Lenten season and Holy week created a sense of community as so many folks came together to share the Lenten journey.

- ✚ For anyone who cooked a mid-week Lenten meal—I say thank you!
- ✚ For anyone who set up for and cleaned up a mid-week Lenten meal I say—thank you!
- ✚ For all the help and muscle used to set up both of our worship spaces for Holy week events I say—thank you!
- ✚ For the Seder dinner—set up and tear down I say—thank you!
- ✚ For all the sacred music and sacred song sung by our choirs and praise band I say—thank you!
- ✚ For the beautiful Resurrection garden and the time it took to plan and prepare it in only two weeks I say—thank you!
- ✚ For the organizational skills used to provide seamless worship all season I say—thank you!

And last but not least . . .to everyone who shared their time with me, your pastor, in worship or study this most Holy season . . . thank you and God bless you all!

—Pastor Bettye

From the Organ Bench

Pastor Greg Shook



Dear Flock,

Happy Easter!

Well, we survived. We made it through the 40 days. We made it through the “Parades to Promises” time during Holy Week, we celebrated a glorious Easter together, and I had someone say to me, “Then what?” Exactly! Then, what?

We are so wrapped up in our Easter preparations; the chocolate bunnies, the egg hunts, the festive breakfasts and family gatherings. What exactly do we do with this Easter message of resurrection.

First thing I ask you to do is replace the word *resurrection* (yes, now go with me here a little!) with the word *hope*. Easter Hope. I mean, after all, isn't that the message of Easter? All the soul searching of Lent, all the emotion of Holy Week, and then (fanfare please, and said in our best James Earl Jones voice) the Resurrection! The Hope. So what?

Okay, let's put ourselves in Thomas's shoes. I'm really into Doubting Thomas this year, for a variety of reasons, but he is my “Gospel buddy.” He has been that for me all my life. We all have doubts, all have fears, and are skeptics with the best of them. However, there is always *hope*. Maybe not the way we planned things, but there is hope.

While I don't think the disciples were always the bravest of souls, they followed Jesus. Thomas stands out for us in this post-Easter time because we relate to the doubting part of him, and that's okay. It's okay to doubt. You remember, Jesus wasn't angry with Thomas. Instead when Thomas had his “show me” moment, Jesus complied. “Here ya go. Check me out!” and Thomas did with the revelation, “My Lord and my God!”

Okay, so what? Well, now it's up to us to share this message of hope. Well, through Christ's death and resurrection, we are commissioned. Yep, we sure are. Through this Easter Hope we, too, have been breathed upon just like Mary Magdalene, just like the disciples, just like Lazarus, and just like the Samaritan woman. The breath that commissions us with the power of the Holy Spirit and this power carries with it tremendous responsibilities to offer love and forgiveness in the name of Christ.

I close with the words of Hymn 390, “The Risen Christ,” from Evangelical Lutheran Worship:

The risen Christ, who walks on wounded feet from garden tomb through darkened city street,
Unlocks the door of grief, despair, and fear, and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.

The risen Christ, who stands with wounded side,
breathes out his Spirit on them to abide

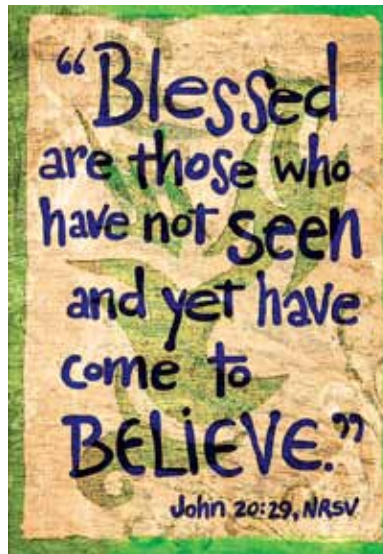
Whose faith still wavers, who dare not believe;
new grace, new strength, new purpose they receive.

The risen Christ, who breaks with wounded hand the bread for those who fail to understand,
Reveals himself, despite their lingering tears, enflames their hearts, then quickly disappears.

May we, Christ's body, walk and serve and stand with those oppressed in this and every land,
Till all are blessed and can a blessing be, restored in Christ to true humanity.

Soli Deo Gloria!

—Pastor Greg



PLEASE CALL US IF YOU NEED US

If you have a caregiving emergency, please call Pastor Greg on his cell phone. It's okay to leave a message on the office phone (ext. 206), but should you have an immediate need, his mobile number is the best way to contact him: (301) 992-1305.

It's okay to leave messages there, as they will be heard and addressed sooner.

Thank you!

Church Council President's Report Judy Conrad, Council President

I want to begin this month's report by celebrating our beautiful Lenten Season. Starting with our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and culminating with our joyous Easter Resurrection Service and Easter Breakfast, it was a wonderful 6 weeks at Trinity. Dozens of members from almost every Team contributed countless hours to make Easter such a success. Pastor Bettye's Wednesday suppers and Bible studies were so meaningful and led our thoughts and prayers to Easter. Starting with Palm Sunday through Holy Week and finishing with her sermon on Easter morning, Pastor Betty guided our understanding of The Word and the sacrifices made for us.

This year for the first time, members of several teams worked together to build a Memorial Garden around the Cross and Baptismal Font. At a cost of less than \$300, our worship space was taken to a whole new level. It was wonderful to sit in the sanctuary on Easter morning with the doors wide open feeling the breeze and smelling the flowers. The bulbs will be planted outside Memorial Hall and in the flower bed in the courtyard so they can be enjoyed again next year.

Your Trinity Church Council has been working very hard this month. We have been concentrating on building up the organization and accountability of each team as well as increasing the efficiency of the Council meetings. It is making each team stronger and that can only make Trinity better. Teams are always looking for new helpers and new ideas. They would love to have you join them.



Please take the time to fill in a Time and Talent Survey. There are many ways to contribute to Trinity, and giving of your time and talents is one of the best. Surveys were included with the bulletin on Easter Sunday. Please fill yours in and place it in one of the baskets you will find in the Narthex or in Fellowship Hall. There are blank surveys available also.

From Social Ministry Carol Brashears

The Food Bank is in need of additional help on Wednesdays. Please see Jeff Reed if interested.

Social Ministry Team will be adding another committee meeting on the first Monday evening of the month beginning June 5th. If you are interested in serving the third congregation of our church, please plan to attend. Watch for further info including time and location. We are adding this evening meeting to fit the congregation members who would like to serve but cannot attend during the day. We will also continue to hold the first Wednesday morning meeting of the month for those who can attend at that time.

Save the Date! Sue Bell

Mark your calendars now for the Ice Cream Social and Old Fashioned Hymn Sing on Saturday, July 8, from 2 to 4 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This event is sponsored by the Senior Ministry Team, but all ages are welcome to join the fun, make your favorite sundae, and sing some of the old familiar hymns. Sign up sheets will be in Fellowship Hall and in the extended Narthex in late May; we are also working on online sign-up capability—stay tuned!

Bingo Night

There will be Bingo for all ages of the congregation on Thursday, May 11, in Fellowship Hall. A light supper will be served at 6 p.m., with Bingo following at 6:45 p.m. Everyone is invited.

Please bring an item for the prize table. We will be collecting for the Trinity Food Pantry that evening.

This event is sponsored by the Senior Ministry Team. Please RSVP by adding your name to the signup sheet after services or by calling the church office. If you need transportation, please contact Karen Spessard at (301) 791-1532.

Senior Ministry Karen Spessard

The Senior Ministry May meeting will be held Tuesday, May 9, at 1:30 p.m. in the Parlor.

Lay Visitation: A Covenant to Care

Pastor Bettye Wolinski



Hurting, they came to him,
Healed they followed him.
Grateful, they gave to him what they had and what
they were.
Blessed, they became a blessing
and went out to all the world in his name.
Those who are hurt and healed,
grateful and blessed
still move among us in his name.

—Ann Weems

Beginning on May 8, Pastor Bettye will be teaching a course for the Order of St. Stephen Deacons entitled Health Ministry. The course is designed to inform deacon candidates regarding the care of congregational members throughout our Synod who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or in care facilities. Pastor Bettye has offered this course in a variety of settings over the past 15 years for churches interested in the development of Lay Visitation Ministry. We have offered this course once before at Trinity.

If you are interested in becoming a Lay Visitor or would like more information, please complete the lower portion of this form and place it in Pastor Bettye's mailbox. There is no fee for this course for members of Trinity.

NEW DATES AND TIMES

Monday, May 8—5 to 7:30 p.m.
Monday, May 15—5 to 7:30 p.m.
Monday, May 22—5 to 7:30 p.m.

Yes, I am interested in
 becoming a Lay Visitor
 would like more information

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone number: _____

Update on Pastor Bettye's Family

On May 1, my daughter Jodi will have surgery in Baltimore, to remove her gall bladder. Due to some birth defects, this procedure may require more surgery than usual. I will be out on family leave with Jodi for at least the week of May 1 through 6.

In my absence, Pastor Greg Shook will take on the responsibilities of the senior pastor. I will keep the staff aware of how the week is progressing.

Our family is asking for and counting on your prayers!



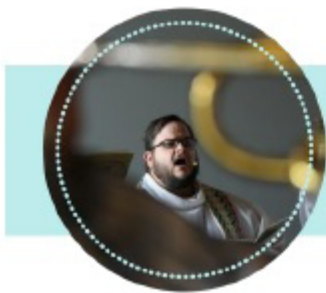
It's Ladies' Night Out!

Due to recent feedback we received, we are reverting back to Ladies' Night Out! All ladies of the congregation and friends are invited to dinner and a night of country gospel music performed by Kevin Booth. As in years past, the men will graciously be cooking and serving the meal.

Please join us on Thursday, May 4 at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Tickets are on sale now—\$12 for adults; \$6 for children ages six to 12; free for children under six. A free-will offering will be taken at the event to give to our singer.

At least 30 attendees are required to hold the event, so be sure to purchase your ticket by May 4!



Bishop Gohl's Easter Message

"Go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy... - Matthew 28:7-8

They were on their way to the grave after a death filled with sorrow in the midst of a busy holiday. Death comes at inopportune times when we cannot give grief its due. Now they were at the grave to finish the job of burial and to cry out their grief. They came to the grave wishing they did not have to be there, hoping it was not real, but expecting to find death. Their memories could not console them now. No laughter or hope was left. Death had taken everything from them.

When we don't want to believe, the turned up sod and temporary marker forces us. Life is gone. Death is done. The grave has won. We have been there. We have the scars. We still carry the pain of the loss.

We come to Easter and its empty tomb because we too have a past filled with disappointments, sorrows and dead ends. We come seeking a future – the future Jesus promised. We come facing our own mortality and yet we come seeking more than comfort. We want life stronger than death.

He has been raised! Now we are challenged to let go of the pain and memories, of disappointments and despair, of sin and guilt. What may seem an unbelievable tale or words that promise something too good to be true are real. *He has been raised! You will see him!* Easter beckons to us. Hope slaps our disappointment in the face. Don't be afraid. Don't live as the dead among the living. Don't be distant from the present hope that God has given you. You are not on your own nor are you your own. You belong not to death but to life in Christ; sin, death, and the devil have no power here.

This Easter, our first as bishop and synod, pastor and people; my great prayer and fervent hope is that we will continue to live into this story, this resurrection story – and live as if it matters.

What would we look like; how would the church be different if we took this joyful Easter hope as seriously as we do the many disappointments, dead ends, broken promises and death that confront us each day?

At Easter, we too will make our pilgrimage to the empty tomb. Let's not go home the same way we arrived. Let God's love astonish and amaze us one again – and let our fear be swallowed up into a great joy. We can risk everything for our love of God and neighbor; everything, for even death gives way to new life.

This is my message for you. Don't be so busy with your preparation (Lutherans love Lent) and celebration (we also love a party) that you miss the promise of Easter: We are resurrection people! Let us go with little fear and great joy, together, to share the good news.

+Bis Gohl

Letters and Notes from Trinity's Third Congregation

A regular feature of our newsletter displays gratitude from members of the Sanctuary and Praise Worship congregations. Here are notes from some of the hundreds of people who frequent our Outreach Ministry.

Dear Trinity,

We appreciate everything you folks do. You're very kind when we come to your church every month. Everyone makes us feel welcome and right at home. We don't waste anything and we wear everything you give us.

Thank you,
The McCarthys

Trinity Food Bank Workers,

Just a way of saying thanks for everything. Your services mean a lot to me. Job well done Food Bank workers. God bless you and have a blessed day!

Lettea Mason

Jeff,

Thank you and your church for the wonderful Thanksgiving basket. It was a wonderful gesture. I really appreciated the time and effort that everyone provided! Thanks again,

Kristy Sollenberger

Dear Jeff, Barb, and members of Trinity Lutheran Church,

We thank you for all the wonderful ministry you provide to our students and families at Eastern Elementary all year long.

I am fortunate enough to see how your services impact our students. For example, helping support our family learning nights and math games, and giving 39 families a basket and turkey that enabled them to have their own Thanksgiving feast shows a caring congregation. You gave these families the ability to provide for their children, and when a parent can provide a child's basic needs, it makes them feel good about themselves as a parent.

Your gift of Micah's Backpack each weekend and holiday to 50 of our students (in December, 249 bags were sent home) is remarkable!

I am so fortunate to see and hear the rewards from your discipleship; students will stop me in the halls and ask about the bags, tell us not to forget their bag and thank us and smile when they receive it.

We truly appreciate your dedicated service! Thank you again so very much for volunteering your time and helping us furnish basic needs for our students. We look forward to working with you for years to come.

Sincerely,
Vanessa Mannick, School Family Liaison

Dear Mr. Reed,

Bester Elementary School has been very blessed with our ongoing partnership with Trinity Lutheran Church. Throughout the years, your assistance with the different programs at Bester has given the school the ability to assist and aid many different families in many different ways.

Sincerely,
B.J. Lushbough, School Family Liaison



Birthdays

** over 75

* under 10

5/1	Anton Williams, Jr.
5/2	Susan Kreiger Lezlee Sabo
5/3	Lisa Conrad Mark Deiterich
5/5	Caroline Kreiger Michael Mowen
5/6	Lois Herchenrother
5/9	Timothy Higgins Scott Paddack Kate-E Reed
5/12	Elias Fowler Robert Griffith**
5/13	Gary Little Linda Tantillo**
5/15	Breese Dickinson** Sara Oxendine Lauren Williams-Rowe
5/16	Jeffrey Sabo Joe Wolf
5/17	Carol Schofield Betsy Warner
5/18	Gidget Gallahan
5/21	Vicki Harshman Amanda Rankin
5/24	Anna Kriechbaum*
5/26	Krista Repp
5/31	Phyllis Fehlauer** Cynthia Stoner



Anniversaries

5/10	Robert and Barbara Winebrenner
5/14	William and Kathy Griemsmann
5/16	Michael & Christine Stowell
5/25	Bill Munz and Deborah Myers Charles and Debra Warner, III

Trinity Lutheran Church

15 Randolph Avenue
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

Phone: (301)733-2878 www.tlchag.org

Sunday Worship at 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Sunday School for All Ages at 9:55 a.m.

Church Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

MAKING DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST

Food Pantry and Clothing Bank: (301)733-5651

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 11 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Washington County Literacy Council: (301)739-4208

Tuesday and Thursday: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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