

Pastor's Ponderings

Pastor David Eisenhuth



At a beautiful service held here at Trinity on Saturday, April 28, Sarah Schofield Wright received the Church's gift of ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament. Trinity nourished Sarah with the Word and the Sacraments. In turn, a process of discernment led her to believe that she was called to exercise a public ministry. After much study and an internship, the Church agreed that Sarah had a call to be a pastor and offered the gift which only it can confer—ordination. I would like to use this article to unpack what all of this means.

It is said that one of Martin Luther's chief doctrines was *the Priesthood of All Believers*. He never actually used those exact words, but his intent was clear. Luther grew up in a world sharply divided between "secular" and "sacred." Lay people were secular, and those who had taken holy orders (deacons, priests, bishops) and/or profession as members of religious orders were in the sacred realm. Guess which realm was considered to be more important? He dismissed this idea in a 1520 treatise called *To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation*. He put forward a doctrine that all baptized Christians are "priests" and "spiritual in the sight of God."

A short after, Luther expanded this view in the treatise *On the Babylonian Captivity of the Church* (1520). He argued that 1 Peter 2 grants the gift of ministry to all baptized people. The Epistles of Peter says this: "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a priestly kingdom." With that, Luther swept away the notion that only the ordained are in relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and that lay people have to work through the ordained to have their spiritual lives affirmed. In ancient Israel, the priestly clan of Aaron was the intermediary between Yahweh and the people. In the medieval world, the clergy, in its hierarchical structure, functioned the same way.

You can see why the Latin Church was distressed with Luther. In his writings, he reasserted the scriptural view that all people stand equally before God and challenged a system of clerical privilege that had existed for centuries. The Church reserved unto itself what is called the *Teaching Magisterium*, wherein only it could tell people what the Bible said and how to reach salvation. Luther felt the gift of Biblical interpretation belonged to all people who

had received the Holy Spirit at Baptism. Now the baker, the housewife, the butcher, *et cetera* were all called to read scripture and share their interpretations. The Latin Church thought this was dangerous and suppressed scripture, keeping the Bible in languages unreadable to any but scholars. Luther took a tremendous leap when he put into the hands of common people the Holy Scripture in their own language. You can almost hear Luther speaking from his pulpit in the City Church of Augsburg saying, "You have it in your hands, now read it!"

From this comes our tradition of asking people in the religious community to take leadership roles helping a congregation do its work. When you look around Trinity, for example, someone has edited this article, someone ran the machine that reproduced it. From the Church Council to the people who set the altar, from the administrator to the sexton, people are sharing in the mission of the congregation by using their gifts to make disciples both within the community and outside its walls. And thanks be to be you all who make this place vibrant with the love of Christ!

Continued on page 10.

Contents

Church Council News	2
Ascension Thursday	2
From the Organ Bench	3
Trinity's Clothing Ministry	4
Visits with Pastor David	5
Trinity's Very First "Chat with Pastor David"	6
HARC HIKE!	6
Reconciling in Christ Update	7
Social Ministry News	7
Ladies' Night Out	7
Ice Cream Social and Movie	7
Planning TLC's 150th Anniversary	7
Rest Room Renovations Complete	8
Washington Co. Special Olympics Paint Night Fundraiser	8
Zion UCC and Trnity Outreach BINGO	8
VBS 2018	8
TLC Yard Sale Filer	9
May Birthdays, Anniversaries, Thank You	11
Trinity's Worker Bees	11

Church Council News

Judy Conrad

At the April 17 Church Council meeting, two topics were discussed that have caused some concern and confusion for some members of the congregation.

Number one is: "How are we paying for the new air conditioning? When will they start asking for money?" At the special congregational meetings held in December 2017, the congregation voted to fund this project from the Endowment Fund. The guidelines for the Endowment Fund state that it is to be used "to enable and enhance Outreach Ministry and to fund the care and expansion of the worship facility." So there will be no fundraising project for the air conditioner. The boiler is paid for, in full thanks to our generous matching donors and our congregation's giving last year. The air conditioning in the Narthex is also paid for, in full thanks to the generosity of givers in the past and the wise management of our Endowment Fund by RBC. At this point, other than everyday, budgeted expenses, we have no debt to worry about! That being said, donations going in the plates and baskets on Sunday morning are below budgeted expectations.

Number two is: "Why is this RIC [Reconciling in Christ] program being pushed down our throats? Why are they not telling us what's going on? Why do we need this?" Please let me provide you with some historical information that explains what has happened so far. Pastor Torben met with Pastor Bettye on March 8, 2017. Pastor Torben then met with the Executive Team of the Church Council, and, on June 21, he made a presentation to Council, which voted to continue to gather information and present it to the Congregation informally. Since then, there have been two articles in this newsletter, and six updates in the MiniMessenger. I did ask Pastor Torben and the Council to hold any further information from September 2017 to January 2018, when our new term call pastor was in place.

Volunteers from the Congregation and Council formed an Exploratory Group, which met in January, February, and April of this year. No decisions have been made. This is not a "done deal." Members of the Exploratory Group will attend Team meetings in the month of May to answer any questions you may have and to provide information. Any final decision is probably 18 months to two years away, and will be done by Congregational vote! You will have the final say. It is never good to hear only one side of a discussion. We need and want input from everyone. Everyone is welcome at these meetings, and we want to hear what you have to say. Would it be helpful to have some discussion groups meet informally between services? Please let me know and we will gladly do that. Thanks so much!

Last month I highlighted one of our ushers, Mark Deiterich, for the kindness he showed one of our visitors. I heard a story today that I would like to share about an-

Continued at the bottom of the next column.

Ascension Thursday

Pastor David Eisenhuth

Forty days after his resurrection, Jesus took his disciples outside the city of Jerusalem. Before their very eyes, scripture tells us, he returned to heaven on a cloud. As he left the disciples, he promised he would be with them to the end of the world. He would return to them and preach and teach the Gospel. They were spellbound and pushed into action by angels.



Ascension is a special occasion in the Church. Be a Thursday, at-never too en-will bring back Wednesdays in this festival. On Wednesday, May 10 (the eve of the Ascension), we will gather in Memorial Hall, have dinner at 5:30 p.m. (details to be announced), and at 6:15 p.m. we will watch another episode from the well-received DVD series, *Tales from the Madhouse*. At 7 p.m. we will celebrate the Eucharist in All Saints' Chapel. Come and join us. Find the answer to this question: Why did the chicken...

... Oh, wrong question. The right one is this: Why did Jesus have to leave?

ages and that he again. He gave sion to go out teach the Gospel. spellbound and pushed into ac-

Day is a special life of the cause it falls on tendance is couraging. We the format of our Lent to celebrate

Church Council News, continued

other one of Trinity's angels. I hope I have the facts right. Last Sunday one of our choir members, Julie Hammond, greeted a visitor in the back pew. The visitor admired Julie's choir robe and asked if Julie was the pastor. After the service, Julie spoke with her again. The lady admired Julie's wooden cross, worn by all choir members. She asked if she could buy one, and Julie said no, but then gave the visitor her cross and a hug. This may seem a very small thing, but I bet it wasn't to that individual! This is how we show that we are a welcoming congregation. Thanks so much Julie! Please share any stories you have about how God's angels are working here at Trinity!!

Please note that we will have a combined service and quarterly Congregational meeting on June 24 in Fellowship Hall. The time is to be determined by the Worship and Music. Team. Please stay tuned!

Council would truly like to hear from you and to know what your hopes, desires, and concerns for Trinity are. We also love to hear when something has gone well. Please call any member of Council, who now have new red and white name tags, so you will know who they are. Or call me at (301)995-5855. I promise to listen fairly to whatever you would like to share with me. God's Blessings, Judy.

From the Organ Bench

Pastor Greg Shook

Dear Flock,

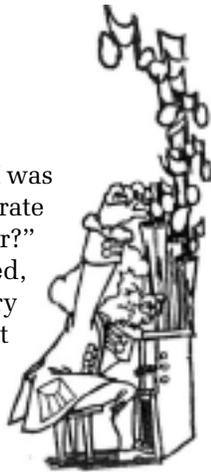
What's in a hymn? Some years ago I was asked the question, "Why do we celebrate these festivals of the church every year?" Without a huge lapse of time I responded, "Why do you celebrate Christmas every year?" The gentleman was as shocked at my response as I was his question. Why, indeed, do we highlight and celebrate these festivals?

The hymn this month that I want to feature is "Creator Spirit, Heavenly Dove" (from Evangelical Lutheran Worship—ELW—#577; tune: "Veni, Creator Spiritus"). It probably dates from the ninth century, and since the days of the 11th century it has been associated with ordination services, but also with Pentecost and the Pentecost season. Even though its definitive authorship is not certain, it now usually is attributed to Rhabanus Maurus (776-856). As the hymn became more popular and more hymnals included it, translators and editors worked to bring the hymn through hundreds of changes and the text "evolved" to what we have in our current hymnal.

When the Tractarian movement (around 1833) decided to work at restoring to the Church in English from the heritage of the Latin hymnody, they opened up a mine of music that was nearly 1,500 years old, very deep and rich. For they found in the Catholic breviaries (collections) not only newly written or revised hymns of the 17th and 18th centuries, but genuine medieval hymns from the age of St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Francis (the 13th century). Also included in this discovery were hymns from the Romanesque age of the 11th and 12th centuries, from the age of Charlemagne (eighth and ninth centuries), from the rude days of the barbarian conquests (fifth and sixth centuries), and even some things from the fourth century, when the old Roman culture was still intact. This find was significant in that the hymns discovered reflected the various cultures, along with social, artistic, theological, and ritual traditions, that produced them. Had these discoveries not happened, we quite possibly may have lost centuries of hymnody.

After centuries of edits and translating the original 24 lines, this is the text of the hymn that we have in our Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal today:

- 1 Creator Spirit, heav'nly dove,
descend upon us from above;
with graces manifold restore
your creatures as they were before.
- 2 To you, the Comforter, we cry;
to you, the gift of God most high,
true fount of life, the fire of love,
the soul's anointing from above.



- 3 In you, with graces sevenfold,
we God's almighty hand behold;
while you with tongues of fire proclaim
to all the world God's holy name.
- 4 Your light to ev'ry sense impart,
and shed your love in ev'ry heart;
your own unfailing might supply
to strengthen our infirmity.
- 5 Keep far from us our cruel foe,
and peace from your own hand bestow;
upheld by you, our strength and guide,
no evil can our steps betide.
- 6 Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and you, of both, to be but one;
that through the ages all along
your praise may be our endless song.

This hymn text qualifies as one of the "classic" Latin hymns of the church, not just because of its long use, but also because it summarizes large portions of what the church knows about the Holy Spirit and prayer. Attributes are piled up in this hymn as the Holy Spirit is addressed as creator, heavenly dove, comforter, gift of God, fount of life, fire of love, the soul's anointing "from above," where graces sevenfold are found. The "graces sevenfold" reflect on Isaiah 11:2—wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, piety (found only in the Vulgate), and the fear of the Lord. The prayer part of this hymn text asks the Holy Spirit with all these "graces manifold" to descend upon us, restore us, light every sense, shed love in every heart, supply might, strengthen our infirmity, keep away the cruel foe so that no evil invades our steps, bestow peace, and uphold us.¹ The final petition is to teach us to know the Father, Son, and "and you, of both, to be but one," so that we may sing our endless song of praise, which comes in a final doxology. The one commentary I read calls this hymn "a massively capacious [spacious] and potent hymn."² What's in a hymn? If taken to heart and processed, a lot!

The tune that is associated with this hymn is the plain-song chant melody, "Veni, creator Spiritus." As the text has undergone changes throughout the years, so has this chant melody. It has been harmonized in interesting—yes sometimes strange—ways. I think it is best used in its simplest form as a single line, maybe alternated between different groups of voices, but left plain, accompanied maybe by two handbells.

"Veni Creator Spiritus," while translated into English, was also translated numerous times into German. Martin Luther made one of them and adapted the chant tune to fit his translation. He removed the melismas (many musical notes to one syllable), simplified it, and made it a more "compact" version. In our hymnal, the translated text is wedded with a chorale *komm, gott schöpfer* (ELW 578). This version first appeared first in 1524.

In his devotional resource, *Tune My Heart to Sing*,³ Dr. Wayne Wold concludes his thoughts of Pentecost and this hymn with this: "Since Pentecost, time and place are

Continued on page 5.

Trinity's Clothing Ministry

June Habeck

"If there is among you a poor man, one of your brethren in any of the towns which the Lord your God gives you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, but you shall open your hand to give him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be."

—Deuteronomy 15:7-8.

For 25 years, our church's members and friends have faithfully been opening their hands to fulfill the needs of the poor around the church in this town that God has given us. This is a long overdue glimpse into the labors of eight volunteers who toil unseen during each week of the year.

We know the numbers of visitors grows annually and that the word has spread. In the past several years, volunteers have heard guests referring to our Clothing Bank as the "Trinity Bon Ton" and, recently, the "Randolph Street Mall" when referring to the bountiful, highly organized, outstanding variety that is offered our neighbors.

When guests enter Trinity's Clothing Bank in the order of their signup at arrival, they are asked if they have been to our Clothing Bank before. If so, a filed card is withdrawn to check on their address and their last visit (as guests can visit once a month). If not, then they are asked to show identification so a card can be made up with their information: the number of family members, their local address, and the date of their last visit.

Visitors are given two plastic grocery bags and reminded of the amount of "shopping" they can do on one visit each month. Each person in the family is allowed two outfits, made up of any combination of pants, shirts, blouses, sweaters, skirts, or dresses. In addition, they can select a jacket or coat, a pair of shoes, socks, underwear, and a purse. If they want to try clothes on, they do so in the rest rooms on that floor of the church.

Tuesday workers are Barb Shearer, Eileen Andrews, Vi Carlson, and Nancy Krueger.

Barb Shearer came to Trinity when Dave and Nancy Krueger transferred eight years ago. She shared a time when a woman came in asking for underwear. When volunteers asked for her size, the woman said she didn't know, as it had been so long since she owned some. Another time, Barb offered a man a razor, and he was so delighted he said, "I want to do something for you; can I give you a hug?" Another hug was given to the volunteer by a little girl after her mother found her socks and underwear for school at Trinity.

Eileen Andrews began working at TLC six years ago, works at the Clothing Bank on Thursdays as well as Tuesdays, keeps a gifted orchid alive and blooming in the Food Pantry, and takes food weekly to a neighbor who can no longer shop. Eileen says that one winter a man and woman came in looking for warm clothing. Although he did find overalls and a vest his size, there was no coat that fit him. The couple then asked if we had any blankets, because they were sleeping in a tent and everything they had was wet. They left with a warm, dry blanket. She says one time a man in his 40s came in asking for shoes. She showed him the one pair that was left in his size. They were new and shiny. He cried as he told her he had walked across town in his tight shoes, all the way praying TLC had some in his size. The greatest need, she says, is for men's pants, boxer shorts, men's shoes, travel-sized toothpaste, and deodorant and toothbrushes. She notes that travel-sized hygiene products can be purchased at any Dollar Store. Eileen cautions that the Clothing Bank can't use clothes that are dirty, badly stained, torn, or vintage.



Violet (Vi) Carlson began the Clothing Bank in 1993 with Edith Karsay, and has been involved ever since. She also has worked in the Food Pantry. She says, "I love to do it." Vi takes home donated clothing that is torn or needs a new zipper or buttons. She said when she was growing up, her mother sewed everything her children wore. When her mother passed away, Vi was a senior in high school, so she took over the job of sewing. Vi made her own daughter's clothes (suits, dresses) until she was 19 years old. Now her sewing skills have been repairing clothing for the poor over these many years. She says that in 1997, when the congregation was first asked to stock the Clothing Bank with donations, clothing flooded in immediately and people even donated the commercial-style clothing racks now used. She explains that at first clothing was stored and dispensed in the Gathering Room on the third floor of the educational building, but was soon moved to its current location. Her observation is that the numbers of poor and needy have increased greatly over 25 years, and continue to do so, year after year. Vi, like all of our volunteers, feels the fellowship and comradely is "so wonderful." She says, "it makes you feel good when people come in and get what they need."

Nancy Krueger has worked in the Clothing Bank for seven years, and serves when needed on Thursdays as well as Tuesdays. Nancy says the work there is humbling. She once served a young man who had just been released from prison for driving while intoxicated. He said his wife had left him because of his alcoholism. He came to the Clothing Bank that day because he wanted to have some clothes so he could look nice to go back home to Baltimore. He found clothes he liked that fit him. Then he said he didn't have any money, and asked if Nancy could give him \$2

Continued on page 5.

Trinity Clothing Bank, continued

for bus fare, and she did. The man thanked the volunteers and left. Two weeks later, he came back and told Nancy that he had been allowed to go back home and had even gotten his job back. Nancy says, "I get to work around some of the nicest people. I feel they are like a second family."

Wednesday workers are Jean Price, Dorinda Roof and Kirklyn Kline. Jean Price began working at the Clothing Bank in 1997, and has continued for 21 years. Jean says she enjoys coming each week to do this work. She enjoys working with Kirklyn and Dorinda, friends who have formed a good team. Clothing Bank volunteers share one universal impression from their time with those in need of the basics: how things like tooth brushes, socks, coats, and underclothes are easily taken for granted by those of us who have always had these things and are seeking another car, house, vacation, or retirement. Jean adds that "most of the people who come in for clothes are very appreciative and I enjoy talking with them."

Dorinda Roof began volunteering 15 years ago, after she retired in 2003. She says helping those in need is very rewarding. She says it makes her especially happy when she can help someone, "like those who come in to find clothes to wear for getting a job. It's great helping them progress in life." She remembers "one woman who came in who had just finished chemotherapy and had lost all her hair. We happened to have a wig in the Clothing Bank. She was so happy."

Kirklyn Kline began working in the Clothing Bank seven years ago. She says there are cases when a unemployed wife and mother comes in and says her child lost a filling, but she's glad the tooth doesn't hurt because she doesn't have dental insurance; and cases when a husband spends all his money on his own hobbies and interests, neglecting his family. People who are grateful will say to the volunteers, "have a blessed day," or "you're so kind." Kirklyn says wigs are donated from time to time. "Once a girl came in and explained that her abusive boyfriend had cut off all her hair; we happened to have a wig. She put it on and looked at herself in the mirror and cried." She says that sometimes the visitors get very excited when they find a warm jacket, a blanket, or a sleeping bag, as the cold weather comes.

The Thursday workers are Judy Purdham, Eileen Andrews, and Nancy Krueger. Judy Purdham has been a volunteer working at the Clothing Bank since 1998, has worked with Vi Carlson over the years, and works at the Food Pantry on Tuesdays. Most of the volunteers agree that the homeless are the most heartbreaking. Their things get wet and stolen. How do they protect their possessions when they have no place to store them, no door to lock them safely in?

The supply of clothing and hygiene products contin-

Continued on tje bottom of the next column



Visits with Pastor David

Pastor David would like to meet and visit everyone in the congregation. Volunteers have been making calls and arranging these appointments. If you would like for him to visit you or know of someone who needs a visit, please call the office at 301 733 2878 and press 5 to speak with Colleen. Arrangements can be made for daytime or evening visits any day.

From the Organ Bench, continued

not barriers anymore. In word and sacrament, in prayer and praise, in music and meditation, a timeless God comes to us, surrounding us with divine presence and with a cloud of witnesses from all times and places. Called into community with and by the Holy Spirit, we offer our breath in praise and prayer to the one who dwells with and in us."

Veni, Creator Spiritus. . . Come, Creator Spirit! Alleluia!

Soli Deo Gloria!—Pastor Greg

Sources:

1. *Hymnal Companion to Evangelical Worship*, Augsburg Fortress, 2010, pp. 415-417.
2. *Tune My Heart to Sing*, Augsburg Fortress, 1997, pp. 169.

Trinity Clothing Bank, continued

ues to flow into the Clothing Bank from caring congregational members and friends, year after year. These workers keep records of all visitors, sort through the many boxes and bags of offerings, hang them on horizontal and round racks, fold items for shelves, hang purses, hats, and scarves, sort shoes and hygiene products, refold clothing after visitors have gone through the clothes, and send unusable clothing to Goodwill.

There are many other stories from the volunteer's experiences over the years about the drunken, high, bitter, selfish, abusive, angry, greedy behavior of some visitors who have crossed Trinity's doorsill for help. But Moses' words in Deuteronomy say nothing about the ungrateful needy. They have their own personal demons to live with and, with God's help, to conquer. The spirit of Moses' words to us, however, are echoed by our Clothing Bank founder, Vi Carlson: "Most people are grateful. I do not have a problem with anyone; my heart is moved by everyone who comes in . . . it has to do with your attitude—treat everyone the same and do not take personal offense to their behavior and burdens. Just help them." "Open your hand to give him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be." Amen and Amen.

Trinity's Very First "Chat with Pastor David"

Peggy Hardinge

The idea for "Chats with Pastor David" came about through Mutual Ministry Team's discussion about our understanding of the importance to members that our voices are being heard. By the same token, it seemed as though the *urgency* to continue with Listening Posts had faded somewhat.

As part of our joint discussion that evening, Pastor David suggested that we hold a new kind of forum called "Chats with Pastor David," during which we could share ideas and give him some feedback as to how his ministry is serving the membership. Pastor David emphasized his desire to have his finger on the pulse (so to speak) of his ministry and that he, very much enjoys every opportunity to communicate, family-to-pastor, whenever he can. In the team's estimation, this was a win/win.

And, so, the first "Chat..." was scheduled and later held April 4, 2018 in the All Saints Chapel/Memorial Hall, in between services at 10:00.

The first of the Chats was a very insightful experience, and we received some thoughtful suggestions for future offerings to consider. Here are excerpts of some of the comments presented.

"I enjoyed the new things we did."

"I liked the New Years' Eve open house."

"Holy Week services were really wonderful. I never did anything like that before."

"I don't care for the reciting back and forth, downstairs. It's too traditional. At least, if we have to read off the screen, use contemporary language."

"Maybe it's the spirit in which it's done."

"Could Andy help with that?"

"Easter Sunday was so wonderful with everyone in one space . . . the singing . . . the camaraderie . . . it was beautiful. Can we have more combined services?"

"Perhaps the same Sunday every month?"

[Paraphrased:] "When I lived in Greencastle and was considering going to a Lutheran church in Hagerstown, my friend said, 'Don't go to Trinity because they're a bunch of rich people with their noses in the air.' Well, I came here and that is exactly how it was . . . but I stuck it out. We could be more welcoming."

"A bad or unwelcoming reputation is hard to erase."

"We're better than we used to be."

"Downstairs, we're really good about going out of our way to greet newcomers."

"We're a lot better at greeting folks at the traditional service than we used to be."

"Whose job is it to greet people?"

"Everyone's," answered 10 or more people present.

Continued on the top of the next column.

"I see a different church than when I came here eight years ago."

"We must learn from the past and not live in the past."

Pastor David said that when he visits homes of our members (of whom he had already visited about half those present for this first "Chat"), he does not hear much about the good ole' days; that we have been very forward-thinking, thus far. He commended us for that. Other comments:

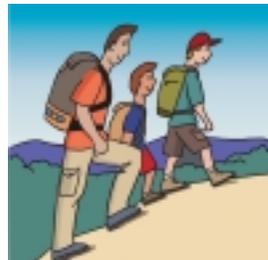
"One of the purposes of the church is to pray. Is it possible to have actual prayer services in the future?" Pastor David said, "Sure. I'd also like to begin having healing services."

Pastor David briefly discussed his future topics of Bible study, the first of which will be April 30, 2018, entitled "Lust in the Dust," which explores sexuality in the Bible. Following this series, we'll explore the Biblical covenants.

There were 23 members present, and toward the end most choir members were free to join us, which brought the number of those present to about 30. The overall tenor of the room was positive, supportive, and of good energy.

Future Chats will be held at 10 a.m. in All Saints/Memorial Hall, between services, will be the time and place predicted for future Chat meetings on, approximately, a quarterly interval. Should an emergent need arise, Mutual Ministry will be available for you to either attend a 6 p.m. meeting the second Tuesday in the Parlor, or we can hold a meeting between services to receive your urgent concern. Please feel free to contact June Habeck-Holler or Kevin Dagliano, who are the new co-chairs, and they will set up a time for you to bring your concern to the team.

Our first Chat was affirming, heightened our awareness of image, and illuminated the path of our near future with direction and the promise of more new things to come! The Mutual Ministry Team thanks all of you who were able to join us to present your thoughts and your feedback to us and to Pastor David. June and Kevin will keep you apprised of the next Chat, so please read your Trinity email messenger and the paper versions you find in your bulletin and in the mail. We're *on a roll*, folks . . . don't be in the dark! May God bless each and every one!



HARC Hike!

The HARC Hike, which supports the Micah's Backpack project, is Saturday, June 9. Trinity is a sponsor of the hike, and we have two slots for anyone willing to walk and represent us. Please see Carol Brashears if interested.

The walk has three different lengths—4k, 10k, and half marathon. For more information, please check the flyer in the Sunday MiniMessenger. Registration sheets are available in the box labeled "Church Office" by the church office door. The hike is a lot of fun! Please join us!

Reconciling in Christ Update

Hunt Hardinge



Trinity's team that is exploring the possibilities of becoming a Church affiliated with the "Reconciling in Christ" (RIC) ministry met in early April. In an effort to be as transparent as possible, the team wanted to keep everyone in the congregation informed as to our thoughts and any possible actions that may be forthcoming.

Between January and the meeting in April, the team was asked to take a survey, a congregational assessment of how fast or slow our journey should be paced. Of those who participated, the average was between cautious and moderate—let's say cautiously moderate. The team is aware of the fact that some in the congregation are very skeptical of the RIC ministry and what it may portend. It is truly not the desire of the team to force anything unwelcome on the congregation, merely to explore, expound upon, and consider the possibilities.

An idea that was discussed at some length is what it means to be a "Welcoming Church." There are really two distinct sides to this question. The first is "our" perspective from the inside, and the second, obviously, is from the outside. In our discussions, the consensus is that from the inside we're actually pretty good, certainly a lot better than we used to be. Nonetheless, from the outside—the perception is not so good. Undeserved or not, we've had a reputation for many years of being snooty and unwelcoming; the rich White church on the hill; the one that can't keep a pastor. Accurate or not, it's how many on the outside perceive us.

We might say to ourselves, "So what? Who cares what others think?" However, it begs the question that if we want to "Make disciples for Christ," as we declare in our mission statement—that is to evangelize, to spread the word of God—how do we accomplish this task? How do we do this if nobody believes us when we say "We are a welcoming church?" This brings us back to "Reconciling in Christ"—a movement that is meant to be inclusive, not exclusive. Although the ministry is aimed primarily at the gay community, it really encompasses much, much more. Although reconciling works is endorsed by the Evangelical Church in America, and has been around for more than 30 years, there aren't any RIC-affiliated churches west of Frederick. I encourage you to visit the website, *Reconciling works.org* and take an unbiased look as to what the RIC ministry is all about. The aim is truly only to be as open as possible to loving our neighbors as ourselves as our Lord taught us and to be accepting of diversity.

God's blessing upon you.

Social Ministry News

Carol Brashears

May 13 is Noisy Change Sunday. This event is held yearly to benefit the ELCA Hunger Appeal. We will present our offerings at the Synod Convention. Even though it is called Noisy Change Sunday, cash and checks are welcome!! This is the one time that we are supporting the ELCA Hunger Appeal this year and your contributions will be well used. Thank you for your donation.

Men's shoes and pants are always needed in the TLC Clothing bank. As you clean your closet out this spring, please drop off any that you may have to donate.

Thanks to all who participated in our Lenten Project. We collected many personal care items, and our Food Pantry and Clothing Bank clients are very appreciative.

Ladies' Night Out

Scarlett Michael

The annual TLC Ladies Night Out is 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 10, at 6 p.m. Tickets are on sale before and after services on Sunday, or call the church office or Scarlett Michael (301)730-0170, to make a reservation. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$8 for children aged six to 12 years, no charge for children under six.

Jan Davis, Minister of Christian Education and Youth at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Hanover, Pennsylvania, will be our guest speaker. She will appear as Mrs. Martin Luther and talk of her life. Please plan to attend this annual event for an evening of good food and fellowship.

Ice Cream Social and Movie

Save the Date! The Christian Education & Family Ministry Team and the Senior Ministry Team are sponsoring an Ice Cream Social and Movie at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 9. Details to follow!

Planning TLC's 150th Anniversary

Carol Brashears

The planning next meeting for our 150th anniversary begins at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 22, in Memorial Hall. Please join us as we plan ways to celebrate our past and look to our future by commemorating our anniversary. For more information, contact Carol Brashears at (301)992-5016 or brash115@aol.com.

Rest Room Renovations Complete

Jane Drawbaugh

Over the last two months, members of the Property Team have been working hard to renovate three of the most used rest rooms in the building. The pastor's rest room, the handicap access rest room behind the stage in Fellowship Hall, and the ladies' rest room on the lower level by the Board Room have all been updated with new floors, newly painted walls, and fresh décor.



In the ladies' rest room we created a larger limited mobility access stall for those who might be using a walker or want their child to be in the same stall as they are. There are now just two toilets in that rest room and only one entrance to the rest room near the entrance to the men's room. Appropriate grab bars have been added in the limited mobility access stall and in the handicap access rest room. Both of these rest rooms are used on Karaoke Night by individuals with special needs, and these upgrades will bring the rest rooms up to code. A newly renovated baby changing station for moms and dads will be coming soon, in the other old entrance to the ladies' rest room. All of the furnishings from that room have been re-used in the rest room and the bride's room in Memorial Hall.

Money from the last Christkindl Markt and from the Civitan Club dinners have paid for all the improvements and most of the work has been done by volunteers. Our only expenses to outside contractors were to ReNew It All, for the floors and tile painting, to Hardware Discounters for new stall walls and hardware, and to Lee Petershiem for installation of the stall walls, doors, and grab bars.

Special thanks to Ed Drawbaugh, Gary Nunamaker, Junior Michael, Ralph Conrad, Keith Staley, and Craig Robinson for the countless hours of work to make the project a reality in time for the all the upcoming events and receptions. A display of before and after photos will be posted soon, and if you want to check out the improvements in person, be sure to knock first and announce before entering!

Washington County Special Olympics Paint Night Fundraiser

Please join us in helping to send two local athletes representing Team Maryland to the USA games in Seattle in July by sharing a creative paint night. This is a benefit for Washington County Special Olympics. It will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, May 11, in Fellowship Hall.

The cost is \$35, and refreshments and snacks will be provided for a small cost by our Fellowship and Parish Life Team. Reservations for the evening can be made online at www.signupgenius.com. Please contact Judy Conrad with any questions. Thanks again and again!

Zion UCC and Trinity Outreach Programs to Benefit from Bingo

On May 6, our own Gary Carter has arranged for our Outreach Program to share the proceeds from an afternoon of Drag Bingo with Zion United Church of Christ and the Elks Lodge Scholarship and Charity Fund. It will be an afternoon of fun for three good causes!

Doors open at 11 a.m. The games start at 1:15 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for 25 games of Bingo and can be purchased ahead of time by calling Gary at (240)527-9699, or at the church office. Refreshments and food will be available for purchase.

We need to help by providing five volunteers to help at the cash tables and by providing items for a raffle table.

Please call Judy if you can help or have raffle items. This should be an afternoon of fun and a great way to help our Outreach Program. Please call Gary or Judy Conrad at (301)992-5855 if you would like to help or need tickets.

Vacation Bible School 2018

Jane Drawbaugh



This summer, Vacation Bible School will run 5:30 to 8 p.m. Sunday, July 29 through Thursday, August 5. After two years of Mobile Mar-Lu Vacation Bible School, we are not eligible for another summer with the counselors from the camp. Many other churches have requested Mobile Mar-Lu, and we will have to wait awhile to have them return. So this year we will return to an evening VBS format, with our simple suppers and classes for all ages.

We will explore *Babylon—Daniel's Courage in Captivity*. We will have several classes for children ages five to 12 and adult offerings as well. The marketplace will be back in Fellowship Hall for crafts and music, and the tribes (classes) will have classroom space for group learning experiences. Some of you may remember the Holy Land Adventure series that we used a number of years ago. The story of Daniel is this year's theme. Watch for the adult class schedule and see what other surprises might be in Babylon VBS this year!

Volunteers are needed for tribe leaders (teachers), marketplace vendors (craft leaders), music leaders, general helpers, and meal prep/kitchen workers to make our trip to Babylon an exciting learning experience! Sign up sheets will be available in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall, or you can go to the church website, tlchag.org, and register to participate as volunteers or in a class. Please plan to attend or help in any way you can.

Pastor's Ponderings, continued

our building and finances? These cares and concerns are spelled out in great detail in the constitution of the congregation, as well as the constitutions of our synod and national denomination—the Delaware-Maryland Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Likewise, for the sake of order and authority, some are called to exercise a public ministry in contrast to the private, avocational ministry of others. As it developed in the Lutheran Church, great emphasis was placed on a learned clergy who understood scripture and the context of its being written and could communicate it effectively to a congregation through teaching and preaching. Over the years, other responsibilities were added to include pastoral care and counselling, outreach, supervision of church property, *et cetera*. If a newly ordained person is going to a small parish without professional help, learning how to use a copy machine might be helpful!

Hence, there is in the Lutheran Church a professional clergy. These people have attended seminary and been affirmed in their learning by receiving a Master of Divinity Degree (MDiv). They have taken courses in scripture, the history of the Church, and practical matters such as how to preach. They have spent hours being supervised in pastoral situations. All through this process, the synod's vocation committee has helped them discern if they really do have a call to ministry. At the end of the process, the national church affirms that someone is ready to exercise this public ministry of Word and Sacrament, and, upon receiving a call, is ordained by a bishop (exceptions to that are possible). A call can be to a congregation or chaplaincy at a hospital or the military. The call has to come from someone or some body beyond the individual. No one can be self-ordained, as is the case in other churches. This is why Bishop Gohl always speaks about someone like Sarah receiving the *gift* of ordination. The office is given to someone, and the service of ordination itself is an occasion for the Holy Spirit to confirm the person's call, and equip that person with the spiritual temperament to do a good job.

As an aside, every congregation is called to uplift vocations to its members. Sarah is the first person from Trinity to be ordained in over 30 years, Pastor Chris Ramsey being the last. I recently attended a class at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. This is the largest ELCA seminaries in the United States, and it produces less than 75 candidates for ministry each year. All of our seminaries combined are bringing forward to the call process less than 300 people a year. This will impact the ELCA in a very significant way, when old guys like me don their Speedos and retire to the beach in Florida. The crisis of empty pulpits would already be evident if people like Pastor Chris and Pastor Torbin were not willing to reach out to communities of faith and serve in them, even if only preaching on Sundays.

Guess how many congregation there are in the ELCA? Just over 9,300. Where will clergy come from to serve these churches as many women and men who served the church faithfully will retire? This situation may well force the ELCA to consider new ways of raising up clergy through such means as distance learning. It would be a shame, however, if the tradition of an educated clergy was lost. It has been very important in the life of the Lutheran Church since the time of the Reformation.

You probably didn't expect a treatise like the one you just read. I do think it's important to realize how important April 28 is in the life of one person who was ordained and in the life of the broader church. The ELCA, through its Delaware-Maryland Synod, approved Sarah for ordination. St. John Lutheran Church in Sweet Air, Maryland, decided that Sarah's gifts would be a good fit for its ministry. And so the yoke of ministry, symbolized by the stole that hangs over the neck of the ordained, was given to her. She is now committed to a public office, where she will preach and teach the Word, as the Lutheran Church understands it, and officiate at the celebration of communion and life's passages such as weddings, funerals, and baptisms. We know God will bless Sarah in her ministry. In happy times as well as difficult ones (the ministry can be difficult). May the Holy Spirit always be her guide. With the prayers of the faithful, many will be blessed by her service as an ordained pastor.

Her mother Carol presented Sarah with a beautiful, handmade and very unique contemporary stole in red, that being the color of fire representing the Holy Spirit. Trinity gave Sarah a special gift, which we hope will be part of her entire ministry. It is a home communion set. It consists of a small chalice, a paten, a pix in which the wafers are stored, and a glass bottle with a silver top. These are of sterling and are carried in a beautiful wooden box. I have had the same kit for my entire ministry, and can't even begin to imagine how many people have felt a close connection to the congregations I have served by bringing to them the same Body and Blood of Our Lord that was blessed on the congregations' altars. A plaque on the box bears Sarah's name, and one inside reminds her it is a gift from all who love her at Trinity Lutheran Church.

This, of course, was my first time with you to follow the story of Christ's passion from the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, through the 60 days of penitence, to the events of Holy Week, then the Easter Vigil, and finally Resurrection Sunday. I can't tell you what a privilege it was for me to share this sacred journey with you. I hope you found the various services to be meaningful. Every service had something special in it for me. But Easter Sunday, with the bulb garden and a very special Baptism, was just amazing. The Easter breakfast was full of joy and fun. Who was that in the flamingo suit? The music was magnificent. I would like to offer a personal word of thanks to all who made this journey of faith possible. So many gave of their time and talents it is impossible to name everyone. But you know who you are, and your family of faith appreciates you sharing your time and talents!



Birthdays

** over 75
* under 10

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



Anniversaries

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

Thank You!

Thank you very much for the lovely flowers you sent for my birthday. A special thank you to Barbara Smith for delivering them on a cold and snowy day. They brightened my day.

—Carole Gibney

Many thanks for the beautiful flowers for my birthday on Palm Sunday, which were delivered to me by Sue Fiedler. I enjoyed them very much.

Thank you to Judy Conrad for the pretty miniature daffodils that she gave to me.

Sincerely,
Anne Thayer

Thank you to Fellowship and Parish Life Team! On April 21, our team provided refreshments for an elegant, “invitation-only” reception for 200, following the 25th Anniversary Hagerstown Choral Arts Concert, directed by our own Pastor Greg Shook.

This was not our usual tea and cookies function! We stretched our imaginations and tested new recipes to provide a lovely time for our guests. Every bit of food was made by us and we think that a good time was had by all! Many thanks to Scarlett Michael, Ginny Doarnber, Debbie Shank, Sue Stull, Judy Conrad, Barb Smith, Nancy Krueger, and Cathy Gorsuch for your help.

—Judy Conrad



Trinity’s Worker Bees

During the month of April, Trinity was a “beehive of activity.” Volunteers worked from the porch of Memorial Hall, to the bathrooms behind the stage, to update and improve our building while saving us a lot of money by doing the work themselves! The Property Team is proud of its volunteers!

The back porch was repaired and painted by Junior Michael, Ralph Conrad, Gary Nunamaker, Brian Hammond, and Rodney Nearchos. At the same time, the protective grids were removed from the ground floor windows. The wooden sills were repaired and repainted, and the grids will be replaced.

Perhaps the biggest projects were the two bathrooms near Fellowship Hall. The ladies’ bathroom was essentially gutted and reworked by Jane and Ed Drawbaugh, Gary Nunamaker, and Junior Michael. They actually created two rooms, making a much more functional bathroom and a soon-to-be parent room, with a changing table and small sink. The handicapped bathroom behind the stage now has improved grab bars and a better door opener for those who need it. These folks devoted hours and hours and HOURS to these projects and we thank them!

—Judy Conrad

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.

Non-Profit Org.
U S Postage
PAID
Permit # 446
Hagerstown, MD
21740

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

