

Between Organ Bench and Pulpit

Pastor Greg Shook

Dear Flock,

What are you thankful for this year? Have you thought about it? If you have not, please take a few moments (or hours!) and sit in a comfy place with a cup of tea and ponder the question.

As people, we are truly blessed by many “thanksgivings” in our lives. I think I know most of you well enough that I could guess your thanksgivings around the table this year. I have many. Too many to list here. Many of them involve you, my church family. For sure, we are all blessed in a multitude of ways.

In one of my personal meditation times, I started looking at the psalms (the Bible’s songbook). Since it an anthology of individual writings, I thought it might jog some personal reflection on giving thanks this year. Here is my Top 10 List for being thankful. Please feel free to add to this list.

1. God’s love for us is never-changing, will never falter, and will never end! (Psalm 136:1)
2. God’s faithfulness toward us is eternal . . . it outlasts anything! (Psalm 117:1-2)
3. God is worthy: oh so worthy of praise, amazing in creative power, and bursting with goodness. Face it, God is just simply awesome! (Psalm 100:3)
4. God purposely and precisely created each of us as elaborate work of art, and He cares about every little piece of you and me. (Psalm 139:13-1711)
5. God is our greatest hope and encouragement when our soul is exhausted. (Psalm 42:11)
6. God is the best and truest cure for any fear we might face. (Psalm 56:10-11)
7. God is a nurturing Shepherd for us and knows just what we need. (Psalm 23)
8. God is our best sponsor and cheerleader . . . our defender! (Psalm 27:1)
9. God is a provider who is trustworthy and always has our best interest at heart. (Psalm 37:3-5)
10. God is right here with you, as close as your next breath,

listening to you and ready to provide help through love and grace. (Psalm 145)

The *Small Catechism* of Martin Luther includes prayers and blessings of all kinds. As we are still in celebration mode for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, I offer to you these prayers, which were crafted after Martin Luther’s writings. I pray they will bring you blessings and joy in their use.

A TABLE BLESSING TO BEGIN A MEAL

“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.” (Psalm 24)
All here gathered, food from the land, all is a gift from your gracious hand. Feed us today; feed all those who hunger; teach us to feed one another. We ask this in the name of the one who is our bread, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Continued on page 2

In the November Issue of *The Trinity Messenger*

Christian Education & Family Ministry	2
Volunteers Sought for Altar Guild	2
Cold Weather Shelter	3
Social Ministry News	3
Great News on Matching Grants to Pay Boiler Loan	3
Trinity’s Annual Meeting	3
Trinity Events in November and December (Pull-Out Pages) .	4&7
Help Us to Discern	5
Council President’s Report	5
Survey	6
Please Call	7
Heat and Smoke	8
November “Thank You!” Birthdays & Anniversaries	9
Fellowship Opportunities	9

Christian Education & Family Ministry

Stephanie Angles

PRAYER BLANKETS

Please consider sponsoring a prayer blanket by making a monetary donation, donating a gift card for Jo-Ann Fabrics or Walmart, or providing two matching pieces of fleece fabric—usually one print and one solid—48 by 60 inches or 60 by 72 inches. Please indicate on your donation that it is for a prayer blanket and include your name. Contact Stephanie Angles, sangles@tlchag.org, with any questions. We have donated 13 blankets to Washington County Public Schools since September 5, to distribute to students in need. Our goal is to donate 20 blankets before Christmas. We are well on our way thanks to you!



YOUTH SUNDAY

Youth Sundays are the fourth Sunday of each month. On these special Sundays, youth assist by handing out the Mini Messenger and stones before the services begin, and collecting the offering and distributing grape juice during Communion. Up to six children participate during each Youth Sunday. Thank you to Kaylee, Bradley, Maddy, and Abby for serving during on October 22. If a child is participating on a Youth Sunday, it is important that the child be present to assist. A reminder of a child's participation will be given to a family on the Sunday prior. If a child will not be unable to participate as scheduled, please let Stephanie Angles know as soon as possible, sangles@tlchag.org. A separate collection is taken at the end of the service on Youth Sundays to support the Children Helping Children initiative.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING DECEMBER 3

Christmas Caroling will be held the afternoon of Sunday, December 3 this year. Please mark your calendars and plan to join in this rewarding family ministry event!

CHILDREN HELPING CHILDREN

Please contact Stephanie Angles or Jane Drawbaugh if you would like to help our youth shop for the children we are adopting this Christmas using the funds from our Children Helping Children donations. We plan to shop one Friday in late November or early December; the date is yet to be determined. Thank you all for your generous donations to the Children Helping Children fund! There will be one more collection this year, in November.

Between Organ Bench and Pulpit

Continued from page 1

A TABLE BLESSING TO END A MEAL

“Rejoice in the Lord always. (Phil. 4:4)
For our food, we rejoice. For our friends, we rejoice. For every good gift, we rejoice. Thank you, O God, for this time to eat together. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

A PRAYER TO BEGIN THE WORK DAY

“May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper the work of our hands.” (Psalm 9:17)
Generous God, you call us to lives of service. In my words and actions this day, move me to serve in Christ’s name. When I lack energy, inspire me. When I lack courage, strengthen me. When I lack compassion, be merciful to me. [Make the sign of the cross.] In all things, O God, you are our way, our truth, and our life. Reveal through me your life-giving work, that I love my neighbor as myself. I ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

And so, my friends, I say, “Praise God from whom all blessings flow.”

Soli Deo Gloria, Pastor Greg

Source: *Reformation 500 Sourcebook* (Minneapolis, Minn.: Augsburg Fortress, 2016).

Volunteers Sought for Altar Guild

Inge Dudda and Sharon Michael

If you are looking for a way to help your church, but only have two hours (at most) on a weekend, please consider serving on the Altar Guild. Saturdays involve setting up for Sunday morning service including preparing communion and changing paraments (altar ornaments) when necessary. On Sunday mornings after service, we wash and store the vessels. Teams rotate weekly, so the commitment is only one weekend per month. We can work with your schedule based on your availability!

What a way to praise the Lord by fulfilling one of the most important duties—preparing God’s house for worship!

If you are interested in volunteering or in learning more, please contact Inge Dudda at (301)790-4995 or Sharon Michael at (301)730-9588.

Cold Weather Shelter

Scott Paddock

This year Trinity will host the REACH Cold Weather Shelter from November 26 through the morning of December 3. We will staff the shelter during weeknights and provide dinners for the residents.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in some form. Judy Conrad, Scarlett Michael, and their team will be the food coordinators. Please communicate with them if you are interested in helping with food services. You can also help by volunteering for any of the nine daily positions. We need two people at the front desk, two persons at the security table, two persons at the laundry service table, one hospitality person, one overnight person, and one person to serve breakfast in the morning. Most jobs start at 6:30 p.m. and end between 9:30 and 10 p.m. Overnight is from 10 p.m. till 5 a.m., and breakfast is from 5 till 7 a.m.

There will be a sign up board at both services and there will be several “asks” before each service. We will have a few meetings between services during which I will answer any questions you may have. Or feel free to contact Margret Harrison or me anytime. Margret Harrison: (301) 992-8335, margretharrison@yahoo.com. Scott Paddock: (301)988-7800, Scott.paddock@scouting.org.

Thanks in advance for considering volunteering your time in helping with a very worthwhile community outreach opportunity at our awesome church.



Social Ministry News

Carol Brashears

Thanks to all who have donated to the Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive—we will continue to collect through Sunday, November 12. We will assemble boxes beginning at 9 a.m. Thursday, November 16, in Fellowship Hall. We need help then, and when families pick up food from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, November 19, and 9 to 11 a.m. Monday, November 20. If you want to help, please contact Carol Brashears: (301)992-5016 or brash115@aol.com, or Jeff Reed: (301)733-5651; jeffreyreed@myactv.net.

We will purchase gift cards for the residents of North Point Veterans Home this Christmas. This was done in the past two years, and it has been graciously received and appreciated by the veterans. We will begin collecting Sunday, November 19. Look for special envelopes in November and December. Every donation is greatly appreciated!

Great News and a Year-End Challenge about the Boiler Debt

Ed Drawbaugh, Chair, Finance Team

The Trinity Finance Team has an important update about the remaining debt on the boiler. As we prepared the 2018 budget, we debated trying to pay off the loan balance (with Congregational approval) out of the Endowment, rather than continuing to make monthly payments as part of the budget. Now there is a much better option. In the last two weeks, a member came forward with an offer to match up to \$25,000 in donations from the Congregation toward paying off the boiler loan balance. To make things even better, the Hershey family offered the same challenge. Given this, we have the ability to match up to \$50,000 in donations. What a fantastic year-end opportunity! The amount needed to pay off the loan by December 31 is estimated to be \$50,000. We need half that amount from the Congregation to retire this debt for good.

To make things even better, both donors have said that they will continue the match (up to \$25,000 each) beyond what is needed for to pay the balance on the boiler loan. The Congregation may keep this excess money for other purposes. With the replacement of the air conditioning in the Sanctuary planned for the first of next year, we will once again face a large expense. It would be great to have a financial headstart on this project. The Finance Team and Church Council profoundly thank our anonymous donor and the Hershey family. We ask that everyone give prayerful consideration to making a donation to this cause between now and the end of the year.



Trinity's Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 19

Trinity's Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, November 19 in Fellowship Hall immediately following the 11 a.m. unity service. The Sunday School hour will be held at its normal time. The Fellowship and Parish Life Team will provide fried chicken and beverages for the luncheon, but sidedishes and desserts are potluck—please bring your favorite dish to share (last names A-M, please bring a side dish or salad; last names N-Z, please bring a dessert).

Trinity Events in November and December —Pull-Out Pages for Your Calendar

Judy Conrad

VETERANS DAY

Veterans, thank you for bravely doing what you're called to do so we can safely do what we're free to do.

Veterans Day is Saturday, November 11. The day originated as Armistice Day on November 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I. The U.S. Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and November 11 became a national holiday beginning in 1938. Unlike Memorial Day, Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans—living and dead—but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime. Trinity continues to honor its own Veterans and supports the North Point Veterans Home. Residents of North Point have been invited to worship with us on Sunday, November 12. Pastor Greg will have some special words and music for the service.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Please join the Hagerstown Area Religious Council (HARC) for a Hagerstown Area Community Thanksgiving Service, hosted this year by Congregation B'Nai Abraham, 49 E. Baltimore Street, Hagerstown, at 7 p.m. on Sunday, November 19 (the Sunday before Thanksgiving). Parking is available on the street or in the Fletcher Library lot; handicap parking is located along the side of the synagogue. This is an interfaith service, welcoming all members of the faith community to join together in giving thanks for our blessings. Trinity is invited to participate in a massed/combined choir anthem for the service, with one practice prior to the service at 5:30 p.m. Please contact Colleen Gildee at (301)733-2878 or cgildee@tlchag.org if you are interested in participating.

REACH COLD WEATHER SHELTER

This year Trinity will be responsible for feeding and staffing the REACH Shelter from 5 p.m. Sunday, November 26, to 5 a.m. Sunday, December 3. So far, Tri-State Civitan, St. John's, and St. Mark's are helping us. Please consider volunteering for some part of the week. We need helpers at the desk, doing laundry, visiting with the clients, and helping to assure security, as well as preparing and serving a meal each day, plus an overnight volunteer,

and we always need desserts. To volunteer to prepare food, contact Judy Conrad: (301)992-5855 or Scarlett Michael: (301)730-0170. To assist at the shelter, contact Scott Paddack: (301)988-7800, Scott.paddack@scouting.org. This is a wonderful opportunity to help those who really need it. It will warm your heart and the hearts of the residents



GETTING READY FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

It's not too early to start filling your calendar for Advent! We all know how busy this season can be. On November 26 we will decorate the Fellowship Hall worship space and the Sanctuary for the holidays. These big projects require lots of helping hands

and hearts. Fellowship and Parish Life will provide some food and we will begin immediately after worship in each space. Please contact Scarlett or Junior Michael know if you are available to help: (301)730-0170.

We will go out caroling to our homebound members on Sunday, December 3. Look for details the December newsletter.

Hagerstown Choral Arts' Christmas concert, "Here We Come A-Caroling," led by our own Pastor Greg Shook, will be 4 p.m. Saturday, December 9, in the Sanctuary.

The Family Christmas Eve service will be held at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall contemporary worship space. Traditional Worship will be held in the Sanctuary at 11 p.m.

On December 26, Trinity will participate in the annual Tour of Historic Houses of Worship. We request donations of cookies to serve and for volunteer hosts to welcome visitors to our church.

LABOR OF LOVE CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL SERVICE

On Wednesday, December 6, at 7 p.m., Trinity will host a special service for families who have experienced miscarriage, stillbirth, or infant loss in the past year. The service was first held more than 25 years ago at the old Washington County Hospital, with five families. Last year there were 175 people in the Sanctuary celebrating their babies' short lives and finding comfort with families who had been in their shoes. This year, Dr. David Baker will lead the service. His topic will be "Infinity." If you have had an

—Continued on page 7

Help Us Discern What the Holy Spirit Is Calling Us to Do

June Habeck, TLC Outreach Ministry



The holidays are coming, and the faithful at Trinity continue programs, anticipate the arrival of a new pastor, feed the neighborhood poor, celebrate ongoing friendships, practice glorious music, reread Luther's life and teachings, and trust God for our present and future. This is an appropriate time for us to reflect on what the Holy Spirit is calling us to do now that we are starting a new era in Trinity's long life of ministry.

We have an ongoing history of social outreach in the neighborhood of Randolph Avenue since the late 1980s. Last year, Jeff Reed decided it was his time to step down as director of Trinity's Outreach Ministry after 16 years. He said, "It is time for us to re-evaluate its mission and strategy, its focus, and its commitment to the community we serve."

To that end, the Social Ministry Team is seeking guidance from our congregation to determine the commitment, support, and future direction. We have a written survey for the November Congregational Meeting. It will be used to guide planning and the new leadership.

This survey is printed on page 6 so you can anticipate the questions it asks ahead of time, give some consideration and prayer to your heart's response, and so be able to fill out the questions easily at the Congregational Meeting. Or you can fill out the survey ahead of time and bring it to the Meeting, or give it to Colleen Gildee in the Church Office.



Council President's Report

Judy Conrad

November is a very busy, important month. Our new Pastor, David Eisenhuth, will be with us for the first time on November 12. He is excited to worship with us and to get to know us a better before his actual first day on December 1. Let's join together in worship that day to give him a warm welcome. We will be able to visit with him after each service and enjoy some snacks and punch. To contribute something for coffee hour, please contact Scarlett Michael or me. We want to prepare a welcome basket with local information and goodies: books on Hagerstown history, restaurant gift cards, travel information, or local goodies. Who has a good potato candy recipe? He would love information about the Art Museum, Maryland Symphony, Antietam Battlefield, and other local hotspots. If you would like to contribute, please drop whatever you have in the office or give it to me or to Scarlett Michael.

November 17 is our annual Congregational Meeting. Sunday School will be at 10 a.m., then worship in the Sanctuary at 11 a.m., then lunch, and the meeting after lunch. It is so important to attend. Every Council Team prepared an annual report, detailing their activities this year. We will discuss and pass a budget that plans our spending for next year. Last but not least, we will hold Council elections to determine who will represent you next year. I remember counting votes one year, and the difference between one candidate going on Council and the other not going was one vote. We checked three times to be sure we were correct. Every vote counts, and everyone's opinion is important, so please be there.

As you will read in Ed Drawbaugh's report from the Finance Team, Trinity has been offered a gift in the form of matching donations toward paying off the boiler loan. We are so close! We thank the Hershey Foundation and our anonymous donor for their generosity. Please consider helping as much as you can! It would be wonderful to clear out that debt before the next budget year and before we take on the renovation of the air conditioning system. Please watch for colorful signs plotting our progress!

Over the last couple of months I have sensed a lack of energy and enthusiasm at worship. As the call process continued, maybe some felt discouraged, doubtful, worried about our future. Maybe the Council (namely me) could have provided more information. Maybe there were feelings of distrust toward the Synod. Attendance and contributions are down. There is concern about our new Pastor and changes in our future. I apologize if you felt uninformed. It was not my intent. Please stay with us and give your Council, Pastor Greg, and Pastor David a chance. We are hopeful for a strong 2018, full of growth, meaningful worship, educational opportunities, and joy in worship with Pastor Greg and Pastor David leading us. I pray for that every day.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH SURVEY, NOVEMBER 2017

Name: _____

1. Please number (1 = "most important" to 9 = "least important") these ministries in order of importance to you in your understanding of what we are called to do as followers of Christ at Trinity:

___ *Christian Education*: For adults, families and children, Bible studies and prayer groups.

___ *Evangelism*: Inviting friends and the unchurched to worship, welcoming newcomers

___ *Health Council*: Promoting the health and safety of members

___ *Personnel and Mutual Ministry*: Caring for the emotional and spiritual needs and concerns of members, staff, and clergy

___ *Property*: Building maintenance and improvements

___ *Senior Ministry*: Socialization activities for senior members

___ *Social Ministry/Outreach*: Ministering to the needs of the neighborhood through the Food Pantry, Clothing Bank, Micah's Backpack, and holiday meals.

___ *Technology/ Communication*: Church website and advertising

___ *Worship and Music*: Planning and execution of seasonal worship, liturgy, and music

2. Please tell us briefly why you do or do not think we should continue to support our outreach to the poor and marginalized in our neighborhood:

3. Trinity Outreach receives food from the Maryland Food Bank and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). We often ask you to contribute some essentials that they do not send us. Do you want to continue doing this?

Yes

No

4. The TLC Outreach Teams have an interest in eventually expanding the Outreach Ministry by offering classes on how to cook healthy meals with fresh foods to those who do not know how to prepare the foods we give them. Would you support this endeavor?

Yes

No

5. The director of our Community Outreach Center, Jeff Reed, asked to step down in early 2016. When no replacement volunteer stepped up, he agreed to continue his 20 to 25 hours a week, ordering food, supervising pickup and delivery, stocking shelves, interacting with Maryland Food Bank, supervising volunteers for the Trinity Food Pantry and the Trinity Clothing Bank, evaluating and responding to the household and financial needs of individuals who seek it, assisting the Micah's Backpack program, being involved with the local veterans shelter, and supporting programs at Bester and Eastern Elementary Schools. The idea of a Directing Team was born: as Jeff wants to continue working in a smaller capacity, he would continue completing the needed paperwork, including the financial record keeping and reporting. The Directing Team needs volunteer leaders from the congregation to supervise the areas described above. This means (A) a supervisor to order food, direct pickup and delivery, maintain inventory, and stock shelves, (B) a person to supervise outreach volunteers and respond to walk-in requests, and (C) someone to supervise inventory for the Micah's Backpack program. The concept is for several people to share in the responsibilities and time commitment. What are you willing to do?

6. Currently there are about 10 food banks in various locations around Hagerstown; each has its own hurdles and struggles. Would you support the concept of one large food pantry (a Coalition Food Bank on a one-floor site) that would be staffed with volunteers from Trinity, St. Mark's, St. John's, and so on, sanctioned by the Community Action Council and HARC, to increase efficiency and accessibility for workers and guests?

Yes

No

Comments or questions: _____

7. Currently, Trinity's Endowment guidelines provide for the annual funding of Trinity Community Outreach: "to provide assistance to the needy members of our community. . . ." In recent years this has not been necessary due to a generous grant from the Hershey Foundation, which expire soon. For the Outreach Center to continue, it is necessary for Trinity to provide approximately \$15,000 annually, either through offerings or withdrawals from the Endowment (which had been the practice prior to the Hershey Foundation). Do you support the use of Endowment funds to help finance Trinity's outreach ministries?

Yes

No

Comments: _____

Thank you, and may God continue to bless us in our ministries!

Trinity Events in November and December

Continued from page 5

experience with pregnancy loss, would like to support someone who has, or would like more information, please contact Judy Conrad at (301)992-5855. Two years ago, Dick Hershey attended and gave such a loving tribute to his sister Sarah who died as a newborn, when he was a young child. It is never too late to honor a life.

FAHRNEY KEEDY SENIOR LIVING HOLIDAY FESTIVAL

Fahrney Keedy Senior Living Community will hold a Holiday Festival to support its Pastoral Care Ministries and the spiritual care of its residents from 4 to 6:30 p.m. on Friday, December 8. Trinity was asked to donation a gift basket to be auctioned off at the festival, and we are working on a basket with the theme "A Cozy Christmas Eve." Please consider donating an item such as comfy slippers, Christmas prayer or story books, teas or fancy coffees, mugs, snacks, movies, a blanket, or PJs. If you have something you would like to contribute, please place it in the Christmas baskets found in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall. If you would like to contribute money for purchases or gift cards, please place them in the offering so they get to the Church Office. The deadline is November 20. Please contact Judy Conrad: (301)992-5855 with any questions.

HAGERSTOWN LUTHERANS TOGETHER

For many months the Church Council Executive Team has met with the Executive Teams of St. John's and St. Mark's, along with Assistant to the Bishop Pastor Robin Simpson Litton and Pastor Dave Baker, a consultant. We look for ways to get to know each other better and to combine energies and opportunities. We met in October and decided on an Advent project. We will bake cookies for two different groups: (1) The Synod supports a ministry that reaches out to workers on ships coming to the Port of Baltimore. For the holidays, we will bake cookies and place them in tins to be passed out to workers who will not be home for the holidays. (1) We will bake for the police, fire, hospital staff, and others who will work Christmas Eve. Each church will bake two types of cookies; Trinity will bake molasses cookies and chocolate coconut haystack cookies. (Yum.) We will bake and pack together on Friday, December 15 and Saturday, December 16, and deliver them on Christmas Eve.

NATIVITY DISPLAY FOR TOUR OF CHURCHES

Last year Trinity hosted a wonderful Advent Tea that was enjoyed by many. It was lovely, but a lot of work went into preparations. In the same spirit of sharing, we would

like to have a Nativity Display for the Tour of Historic Houses of Worship on December 26. If you have a Nativity that you would be willing to share, please contact Carol Brashears: (301)992-5016 or *brash115@aol.com*. Please include some information about where you got it or why it has special meaning to you and your family. To have them arranged carefully in time, please deliver nativities to church by Saturday, December 18.

THE LEGEND OF THE DOGWOOD

There is an old story: at the time of the crucifixion, a dogwood had reached the size of the mighty oak tree. So strong and firm was the wood that it was chosen as the timber for Jesus's cross. To be used for such a cruel purpose greatly distressed the dogwood. While nailed upon it, Jesus sensed this, and in his compassion said, "Because of your pity for my suffering, never again shall the dogwood tree grow large enough to be used for a cross. Henceforth, it shall be slender, bent, and twisted, and its blossoms shall be in the form of a cross—two long and two short petals. In the center of the outer edge of each petal will be the print of nails. In the center of the flower, stained with blood, will be a crown of thorns so that all who see it will remember.

After Dr. Clair Johannsen passed away last spring, his family asked that Trinity plant some trees or shrubs around our building to honor his memory. We have begun this process with the planting of a dogwood tree in front of the church, to the left of the front doors. It seemed fitting that a tree so closely connected to the death and resurrection of Christ be used to honor Clair. Each spring it will be a beautiful reminder of his resurrection and love for us.

Please Call Us If You Need Us! Pastor Greg Shook

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!

Heat and Smoke

Colleen Gildee

Recently I came across a copy of my staff evaluation from several years ago. Part of it was a self-assessment that included the question, “What is fulfilling for you in this position?” Part of my response was how I particularly enjoyed learning about Lutheranism. Here are some of the things I have learned about you and being Lutheran.

YOU ARE AN EASTER PEOPLE

Pastor Greg has written about having to explain why a crucifix wasn’t present at a funeral: “I tried my best to explain that, for us, the cross is empty because Jesus rose from the dead. After all, the point of Easter and the Resurrection story is the *hope* that it brings to the Christian.” You are an Easter people who celebrate the living God!

YOU TEACH FOR A LIFE OF FAITH

You are constantly learning; Bible Study during the week! Bible Study at Church Council! Bible Study on Sunday! I can see how you all live out the teachings and lessons in your lives. One of my favorite things about *all* of the Bible studies is that it is normal to see a layperson leading the class. How wonderful it is that the clergy empower you and recognize your gifts to lead others!

YOU WELCOME ALL CHRISTIANS TO THE TABLE

Saints and sinners alike—all are welcome! As a divorced and remarried woman, this makes my heart happy. In other denominations, I am forbidden to receive communion; there is nothing more devastating on a Sunday than to receive a message of unworthiness where one should feel most loved and accepted. But here our pasts matter not—only our love for God! *All* are truly welcome (but I didn’t actually know that until I started work here)!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

If we are to be the hands, feet, and mouth of Jesus, it is profound that we use the words, “Peace be with you”—the same words Jesus spoke to His disciples. The Passing

of the Peace reminds us each week that we are to be peaceful with each other, even in the midst of disagreement or division. It’s something we do to prepare our hearts before we receive the Body and Blood of Christ. Is moving about during the Passing of the Peace a Lutheran practice, or specific to Trinity? Either way, it’s spectacular! I can extend peace to those sitting around me, and can specifically seek out someone with whom I may not be on good terms or may have ruffled my feathers a bit. It’s a chance to extend peace, but also a little—or a lot—of grace!

GRACE

Ironically, this topic arose while I’ve been soul-searching—attempting to discover not only *what* I believe, but *why* I believe. Since this was presented to me while discerning, I paid a little more attention to it than I normally would, so you all get more than a paragraph for this one! “My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but for the sins of the whole world.” 1 John 2:1-2

Grace doesn’t come to me because of what I’ve done or earned, it comes unconditionally, because of what *Christ* did. Sounds like Good News to me! The concept of Jesus forgiving the sins of the world—everyone’s—is a concept that is new to some, including me; it certainly wasn’t something discussed in my circle of mostly Roman Catholic and Southern Baptist friends. It’s not something I had even considered until studying the Lutheran tradition.

Why do we struggle with the idea of the sins *of the world* being *taken away*? Why wouldn’t we embrace it? It removes the idea that I am a “better” Christian, because my sin is rated five points less than my neighbor’s sin on a sliding scale. It removes any need to judge. It removes the possibility that any good work is sufficient for God’s mercy. The saying “Hate the sin; love the sinner” should be “Forgive the sin; love the sinner.” Extend the grace to others that you would like to receive. That’s hard to do. But *you* do love and grace so well!

“Just as there is no fire without heat and smoke, so there is not faith without love.”—Martin Luther





Birthdays

- 1 Cayla Scheer
- Mary Schultz
- Charlie Warner, IV
- 2 Barbara Jones
- 3 Sharon Michael*
- 4 Helen Rohrer*
- 7 Frauke Higgins
- 8 Addie Bloomfield*
- Clyde Condo III*
- Michael Stowell
- 9 Nanette Dagliano
- 10 Judy Purdham
- Ayanna Thomas
- Satiera Thomas
- 11 Jenna Repp
- Benjamin Shuster
- 14 Nancy Showe
- Annie Goble
- 15 Carol Daniels
- Kathy Shrader
- 16 Shane Angles
- 17 Dan McCarthy
- Pamela Sherman
- 18 Susan Kretzer
- Erma Leedy*
- 19 Linda Taylor
- 22 Dave Rowe
- 23 Brian Hammond
- Downs Hewitt*
- 24 Barbara Brechbiel
- 25 Elmer Gibney
- Ruth Sasse
- 26 Deborah Myers
- 27 Andy Wallace
- 28 Bill Griemsmann
- 29 Judy Melby Robinson
- Craig Robinson
- Catherine Williams*

* indicates 75+ years



Anniversaries

- 7 Michael & Diana Markle
- 15 Dan & Jennifer Dopson
- 18 Jerry & Jane Guyton*
- Carole & Elmer Gibney



Thank You!

Many thanks for the colorful fall flowers that were brought to my home on my birthday day by Barbara Smith. I so appreciated her visit. How kind and thoughtful for Trinity to recognize the birthdays of their members in this beautiful way. —Jane Guyton

Trinity Members,

Thank you for the lovely flowers that were given to me for my birthday. I enjoyed them for many days.

—Kirklyn Kline

To my Trinity friends,

I'm sending you this little note to thank you and to say how nice it was to be thought of in a very special way. Thank you for the beautiful flowers for my birthday. They are gorgeous and I will enjoy them for many days.

Sincerely,
Sarah Jones

Altar Guild,

Many thanks for the lovely flowers and birthday card. It is nice to be remembered by the church family. Also to Susan Fiedler who delivered them.

Sincerely,
Betty H. Martin

The flowers I received for my September birthday were lovely, and much appreciated. God bless Trinity Lutheran.

Sincerely,
Donna Alexander



Fellowship Opportunities

Pastor Greg Shook

BREAKFAST AT THE AMISH MARKET

Join us on Fridays at 9 a.m. at the Amish Market at the Long Meadow Shopping Center. This is not an exclusive group, just a gaggle of Lutherans enjoying breakfast and fellowship time. Started several years ago with a few men having coffee and now can number up to 20! Come as you are able to join. No assigned seats, no membership fee, just fun.



CROCHET FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Ron Fisher will be hosting a Crochet Fellowship Group in the parlor from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., the first and third Wednesday of each month. Ron has been crocheting on and off for several years and finds it to be rewarding and relaxing. Come together to share ideas, work on projects for the community, do your own project, and bring your questions.

Learning from each other is a great way to make friends and share ideas, and a fun way to network and build your confidence in this art! All who love the art of crochet are welcome; some basic skills are needed to work on projects.

TRINITY TASTERS

It's not too late to join a Trinity Tasters dining-out group. To sign up, please contact Scarlett Michael of the Fellowship and Parish Life Committee: (301) 739-0170.

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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