

# Pastor’s Ponderings

Pastor David Eisenhuth

Trinity has beautiful vestments. I particularly like the chasubles, which match the altar paraments. A chasuble is the outer garment worn by the celebrant at Holy Communion. This garment developed in the early years of the church. In the Roman world it was a secular coat called the “casual” which means “little house.” That is a good description of what a chasuble is. In its present form it has a copious amount of material with a hole for one’s head. It usually is of the color of the day—that is, green, blue, white, *et cetera*.

I have collected a number of chasubles during my ministry. Those attending worship will get to see some of them over the course of a liturgical year. One of my favorites is a black fiddle-back chasuble. Its shape mimics a fiddle. Unlike today’s modern version of the chasuble, a fiddle-back is pretty sparse in its use of material. I got mine in 1981. Roman Catholics had stopped using black as a liturgical color back in the 1960s, but a number of priest friends still had them hanging in sacristy closets and were at that time willing to part with them. At one point I had four black chasubles, but I gave three away to friends and kept the best one for myself.

My black chasuble is of beautiful watered silk and has hand embroidery in silver thread. Front and back depict stylized crosses. It’s obvious someone spent a lot of time working on this vestment. I like to think of some cloistered nun doing the hand work. It has been a prized possession these 36 years of ministry.

The beauty of the chasuble, however, belies its purpose. It is meant to be worn on Ash Wednesday. As you know, Ash Wednesday is counted 40 days backwards from Easter (not including Sundays, which are always celebrations of the Resurrection). It is the beginning of Lent, that solemn time when we think about our sins and prepare for the Pascal feast. A cross of ash is placed on the forehead of the worshipper.



The words which accompany this act tell it all: Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.

No matter how pretty you think my chasuble is, it represents death. The consequence of sin is our separation from God and that results in death. Adam and Eve found that out when they ate of the fruit of the Tree which conferred knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden. They were cast out of that perfect place and would eventually experience death. I think God intended for them to live in relationship with God but they chose something else, the consequences of which were frightening.

All of this would be pretty grim if it were not for the fact that Lent leads us to something wonderful. When we have taken time to seriously consider how far short of God’s hopes for us we have fallen, we

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# Why Does the Date of Easter Change?

Leslie LeBlanc

Ash Wednesday is February 13 this year. It doesn't fall on the same date every year. It is 46 days before Easter (40 fasting days, plus the Sundays of Lent, not considered to be fasting days). Easter is usually the first Sunday after the first full moon that occurs on or after the vernal (spring) equinox, using the Gregorian calendar (the modern international, civic calendar), or the Julian calendar, still used by many Orthodox Christian churches. The dates of Palm Sunday, Good Friday, the Ascension, and Pentecost are determined by the date of Easter.

According to the New Testament, Jesus's death and resurrection occurred around the time of the Jewish Passover, on the first full moon following the vernal equinox. Even early Christians celebrated Easter on different dates: by the end of the second century, some churches celebrated Easter on the day of Passover and others celebrated it the following Sunday.

In 325 A.D., the Council of Nicaea established that Easter would be celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon that occurred on or after the vernal equinox. Thus, the date of Easter depended on an ecclesiastical approximation of March 21 as the date for the vernal equinox. The date of Easter is delayed by one week if the full moon is on a Sunday, to decrease the chance it will fall on the same day as the Jewish Passover.

Other variations in the date of Easter resulted from the adoption of the (modern) Gregorian calendar, which was established in 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII, to correct problems in the length of the calendar year created by the Julian calendar, which had been instituted by Roman imperial edict on 1 January 45 B.C. Over the centuries, the Julian calendar had proved to be slightly too long, and the calendar date of events like the vernal equinox no longer matched the actual solar events. Some churches, including the Eastern and Orthodox churches, still observe Easter using dates from the Julian calendar.

Information from [www.timeanddate.com](http://www.timeanddate.com).

## Pastor's Ponderings

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deepen our depression at the foot of the cross on Good Friday, but just around the corner, so to speak, is Easter. Jesus conquers death and invites us to share in the glory of his resurrection. Sin yields to forgiveness. Sadness turns to joy. And my black chasuble is replaced by one of white! Join us for Lent and prepare for the joy of Easter. —Pastor David



### NEW HYMNS FOR LENT, HOLY WEEK, & EASTER

We have used and been blessed by hymn texts written by the Reverend Carolyn Winfrey Gillette in several of our worship services. Carolyn has a wonderful gift of writing hymn texts that are new and refreshing using familiar hymn tunes. She has written a new collection of hymns for the Lenten/Holy Week/Easter cycle for use this year. We will be using and highlighting one of these new hymns each week. Watch the bulletin beginning Ash Wednesday. —Pastor Greg



## SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

When: February 13  
Where: TLC Fellowship Hall  
Time: 5:30 p.m.

Adults: \$6.00  
Children 6 to 12 years: \$5.00  
Children under 6 years are free

Come join us for pancakes, sausage, and scrambled eggs. Music by Carl Disque and friends. Tickets are on sale now after church services.





## From the Organ Bench

Pastor Greg Shook

Dear Flock,

As we finish up the season of Epiphany over the next few weeks, our thoughts turn to the season of Lent. Why should we bother about Lent? What should we do during Lent? Does Lent still hold any significance for us in 2018?

Most of us know the basic facts about Lent: it lasts 40 days, sometimes we give up something during the season, it starts on Ash Wednesday, *et cetera*. But what is its significance for YOU? What does Lent offer to YOU? I had a woman in a former choir that tagged Lent as the “time when we sing sad songs.” Lent should be a time when we reflect, refresh, and regroup ourselves to see if we are really doing our best at following the teachings of Jesus in our daily lives. That’s overly simplified, however that is the basic idea of how to best use Lent.

When I was growing up our television had a “fine tune” knob that was around the channel selector. (Boy do I feel old!) You could “fiddle” with the knob to bring some clarity and bring the picture into focus. Stores take inventory to know what is selling and what’s not. Lent provides us a time when we can take a Spiritual Inventory and see where we need a little “fine tuning” of our spiritual life. Are we really doing our best to serve God in the world, though our churches, and toward one another?

I found some interesting commentary on Lent by Martin Luther. Luther felt that Lent should not be a “show,” not about works. Luther says in one of his sermons:

“We have fasted before you!” they say. “Why aren’t you impressed? We have been very hard on ourselves, and you don’t even notice it!” “I will tell you why!” I respond. “It’s because you are fasting to please yourselves. Even while you fast, you keep oppressing your workers. What good is fasting when you keep on fighting and quarreling? This kind of fasting will never get you anywhere with me. You humble yourselves by going through the motions of penance, bowing your heads like reeds bending in the wind. You dress in burlap and cover yourselves with ashes. Is this what you call fasting? Do you really think this will please the LORD?”

“No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.

“Then your salvation will come like the dawn, and your wounds will quickly heal. Your godliness will lead you forward, and the glory of the LORD will protect you from behind. . . . The LORD will guide you continually, giving you water when you are dry and restoring your strength. You will be like a well-watered garden, like an ever-flowing spring. Some of you will rebuild the deserted ruins of your cities. Then you will be known as a builder of walls and a restorer of homes.”

Lent is a season that gets to the basics of our faith and spiritual connection. However you choose to use your Lenten days, be sincere and open to how the Spirit might guide you to new places and possibilities for ministry.

I leave you with the text of “O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days.” This hymn opens the Lenten section of our hymnal and is a paraphrase of a hymn written by Claudia F. Hernaman. One of over 150 hymns written for children by Hernaman, it was included in her 1873 collection of hymns, *Child’s Book of Praise*:

“O Lord, throughout these forty days you prayed and kept the fast; Inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past. You strove with Satan and you won; your faithfulness endured; Lend us your nerve, your skill and trust in God’s eternal word. Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed and fixed your mind above; So teach us to deny ourselves that we may know God’s love. Be with us through this season, Lord, and all our earthly days, That when the final Easter dawns, we join in heaven’s praise.”

May Lent be for us all a time of renewal and restoration.

—Blessings and Peace,  
Pastor Greg

## Roman Catholic-Lutheran Evening Prayer Service

As a continuation of the Reformation anniversary celebration from last year, please join Roman Catholic and Lutheran congregations and clergy in this area for a joint service of scripture, prayer, and song at 7 p.m. Tuesday, February 20, at St. Ann Roman Catholic Church, 1525 Oak Hill Avenue, Hagerstown.

Delaware-Maryland Synod Bishop William Gohl and Baltimore Archdiocese Associate Bishop Denis Madden will offer reflections. The service will reflect Lenten themes of repentance, reconciliation, and renewal and will be somewhat similar (but not identical) to the combined worship at last year's Synod Assembly in Ocean City. St. Ann has a large parking area on either side of the building and is handicap accessible.

## Literacy Council of Washington County Needs Volunteer Teachers

The Literacy Council of Washington County needs volunteer tutors to teach Adult Basic Literacy and/or English as a Second Language. The two-day Tutor Training Workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 10 and 17 at Benevola United Methodist Church, 19925 Benevola Church Road, in Boonsboro.

To register or more information, see Brenda in Room 106 at Trinity Lutheran Church any Tuesday or Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. You can also contact Brenda at (301)739-4208 or email her at [office@literacycouncilofwashingtoncounty.com](mailto:office@literacycouncilofwashingtoncounty.com), or at [www.literacyofwcmd.org](http://www.literacyofwcmd.org).

Your new student can't wait to hear from you! YOU can make a difference in your student's life!

## Fellowship Opportunities

### 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. It 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 AND KNITTING FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Ron Fisher hosts a Crochet and Knitting Fellowship Group in the parlor from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., the first and third Wednesday of each month. Ron finds crocheting 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 and knitting are welcome; some basic skills are needed to work on projects.

## Puzzle!

Search for these words that are all associated with the Lenten journey.

crown donkey hosanna penance Pilate sins  
colt crucifixion forsaken kiss prayer suffer  
confess death Gethsemane lots repent thorns  
cross denial Golgotha palms silver vigil

E	N	A	M	E	S	H	T	E	G	R	L	W	Y
C	L	E	U	X	B	M	T	H	B	U	C	W	B
N	R	I	K	Y	P	A	T	E	T	I	Y	X	Y
A	V	J	G	A	L	B	R	E	Y	A	R	P	B
N	G	N	L	I	S	N	L	A	I	N	E	D	X
E	W	M	P	R	V	R	D	H	B	N	R	D	F
P	S	O	G	O	L	G	O	T	H	A	B	S	C
D	L	N	R	O	C	O	N	F	E	S	S	I	K
O	T	H	T	C	P	E	K	W	U	O	U	N	D
M	N	S	H	N	P	W	E	D	R	H	F	S	K
U	N	F	O	E	T	K	Y	C	S	G	F	O	E
H	E	C	R	E	V	L	I	S	W	Q	E	C	M
H	V	H	N	C	X	S	O	C	C	J	R	L	O
F	Q	E	S	U	D	S	H	C	A	A	Y	M	C
C	R	U	C	I	F	I	X	I	O	N	S	R	V



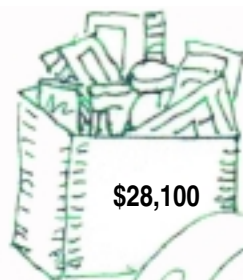
# Trinity Community Outreach 2017 Review

June Habeck and Jeff Reed



\$50,000

**ANNUAL BUDGET**



\$28,100

**FOOD PANTRY:** distributed  
64,500 lbs or 32.25 tons of food;  
served 1,457 families (3,614 individuals)

**ACTIVITIES**  
(disbursements)



\$600

**CLOTHING BANK:**  
served 2,104 families



**MICAH'S BACKPACK:** \$10,000  
Served 67 students; 11,500 lbs. of food



**\$1,800:** household items, rent  
assistance, prescription meds



\$1,000

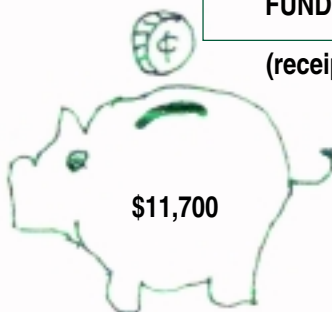
**SUPPORT FOR NORTH POINT  
VETERANS HOME**



**CONTRIBUTIONS  
FROM TLC MEMBERS**

\$11,000

**FUNDING**  
(receipts)



\$11,700

**TRINITY CHURCH  
FUNDING/BUDGET**



\$20,800

**MEMORIALS  
& GRANTS**



\$3,200

**SPECIAL EVENTS  
TO RAISE FUNDS**



**DONATIONS  
OF CLOTHING**



**DONATIONS  
MD. FOOD BANK**

\$12,200



**DONATIONS**



Sharing our abundance  
with those in need ...

... in the name of Jesus

## Council President's Message

Judy Conrad

I am honored to have been elected by our Trinity Church Council to extend my term as president for another year. I am hoping that this will ease the transition of Pastor David Eisenhuth as he begins his ministry with us. I look forward to another very busy year as council strives to serve God, Trinity, and the congregation in the best way possible. By electing a president elect for 2019, Craig Fentress, we can work together to assure a smooth turnover next year.

As I write this, we are having much warmer weather. This brings thoughts of spring and Easter. As always we begin with our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, February 13! This is always a very well attended, delicious event, and we look forward to the same this year. Please purchase or reserve your tickets as soon as possible. We don't want to run out of food! We are always looking for volunteers to help in the kitchen, especially this year as some of our chefs will be out of town! Please call Judy Conrad at (301)992-5855, or Scarlett Michael at (301)491-2935, if you can help in any way!

After the excitement of Shrove Tuesday, we enter into the reflective period of Lent. Lenten suppers and worship will again be held on Wednesdays in Memorial Hall. A simple meal will be served with worship following. Please plan on joining us.

As you may remember, last year we had a beautiful bulb garden surrounding the cross in the sanctuary. We are doing it again this year, and offer the congregation the ability to participate by sponsoring or purchasing plants to be placed in the garden. More information and a price list will be coming soon.

Easter service will be followed by our joyous Easter Breakfast! You will be hearing more about tickets closer to the day. Our basket auction will be moving back to Easter this year. We are asking our Church Council teams, Bible Study, and Sunday School classes to donate a basket for the basket auction. Proceeds will go toward paying off the new air conditioning in the Sanctuary.

On February 3, Church Council, staff, and team leaders will participate in our annual Leadership Retreat. We will spend the day thoughtfully and prayerfully learning about how Trinity works and how we can plan for our future. Please pray for all of us as we gather together.

## 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.

## New Location for Pub Theology

Pastor Torben Aarsand

Please join us on Thursday, February 8, at Black-Eyed Susan Restaurant for a time of conversation about life and God or whatever questions or concerns come up!

The non-church venue and menu offers those interested a chance to gather as brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, to connect with each other on a weekday, to think about the church, faith, society, and to offer a stepping stone between Sunday gatherings.

All are welcome. Come just as you are.

When? 2/8

Where? Black Eyed Susan Restaurant, 18727 North Pointe Drive, Hagerstown.

Time? 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (dining? come a bit early and get started as you desire . . . conversation will begin about 6:45).



\* Indicates under 10

\*\* Indicates over 75

- 2 Zachery Repp
- Dave Warner III
- 3 Dorothy Benchoff\*\*
- 5 Judith Hess\*\*
- Rick Anthony
- 6 Hazel Eichelberger\*\*
- 7 Scarlett Michael
- 10 Daved Paddack
- Aaron Staley
- 11 Jean Price\*\*
- Molly Warner
- 14 Rick Toms
- 16 Greg Shook
- 21 Amy Cochrane
- 22 Christopher Bradford
- 23 Mary Catherine Spangler\*\*
- Keith Staley
- 24 William Greimsmann\*\*
- 25 Hannah Hardinge
- Kristina Norgard
- Brieanna Scheer
- 26 Diona Minnich
- 27 Torben Aarsand
- 28 Akira Williams



- 13 Dave and Lauren Williams-Rowe
- 18 Tom and June Habeck Holler



# Thank You!

Dear Trinity,

... Thank you for your generous donation of the "All I Need Today" basket to Habitat [for Humanity]'s 24th Annual Dinner Auction, "Homes for the Holidays." With you support, we exceeded this year's fundraising goal. We are very grateful for your continued support of our signature fundraising event. On behalf of the entire Habitat for Humanity of Washington County family, please accept my thanks again.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joyce A. Heptner,  
Executive Director

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers delivered to me for my birthday.

Sincerely,

Helen Ridenour

Senior Ministry,

Thank you for my Christmas poinsettia and ornament. It was so nice to have been remembered. The visit was most welcomed and I enjoyed the news from Trinity. Thank you again.

—Janice Keefer

## Puzzle!

Search for these words that are all associated with the Lenten journey.

crown donkey hosanna penance Pilate sins  
colt crucifixion forsaken kiss prayer suffer  
confess death Gethsemane lots repent thorns  
cross denial Golgotha palms silver vigil



**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
15 Randolph Avenue  
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

Phone: (301)733-2878 [www.tlchag.org](http://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**

