

Pastor's Ponderings

Pastor David Eisenhuth



The Shakers are a Protestant religious denomination officially called the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing. This group originated in Manchester, England in 1772 under the leadership of Mother Ann Lee. In 1774 Mother Lee moved the nine-person group to New York.

Oral tradition, taken upon Mother Lee's death, ascribes the origins of the movement to the appearance of five French "prophets" to London. They came after a five-year insurrection against the King of France. They prophesied the end of times and sought to gather English Puritans for the final battle—Armageddon, as described in the Book of Revelation. It was a time of Messianic expectation. World events seemed to be unfolding as predicted in Revelation, which foretells the second coming of Jesus.

Once in the New World, the Shakers set about building communities that held property in the name of the group. Shakers practiced strict celibacy—men and women lived separately. The group was renewed by converts and by the adoption of orphans. At its peak in the U.S., the Shakers built about 19 communities and attracted some 200,000 followers. It is estimated that because of rapid turnover, only about 6,000 people ever truly followed the beliefs of the faith and signed a covenant document admitting them to the community of believers. Today, there are only two Shakers left, both living in Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village in New Gloucester, Maine. Other communities are museums.

One of the hallmarks of the Shaker movement was a style of handmade furniture and ornamentation marked by simplicity. Ranging from the community buildings themselves to tables, chairs, and storage boxes, form and functionality triumphed over excessive decoration. Original artifacts occasionally come on the market and sell for incredible sums. A few years ago, one of the last remaining Shakers, a woman close to 100 years of age, was told that a Hollywood celebrity had paid \$20,000 for a small box. She explained that the box was meant to be purely utilitarian in function and was

never intended by the group that made it for it to become a work of art for which such a princely sum would be paid! To her, this was an incredible waste. She said the maker of the box never intended that it would become so precious.

Imagine someone visiting ancient Bethlehem during the great tax registration as recorded in the Gospel of Luke. Going out to the stable to feed his donkey, he stumbles onto a strange scene—a woman had just given birth and her baby was there, lying in a manger. With the city crowded by people who had come back to their village of birth to register in the census, it might not have been a surprise to our casual observer. No room in the inn! A stable would have to do.

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From Your Council President

Craig Fentress

During that last few months I have talked about setting goals for the Church Council for the year. At the last Council meeting, goals were presented to the Church Council. The Council voted and approved the following goals for the rest of the year.

1. Increase community engagement opportunities
 - A. Bring people into the church for activities
 - B. Participate in community activities
 - C. Start a greeter program
2. Provide opportunities for members to become more involved in operations and ministries of the church
 - A. Offer training for members to connect with the community
 - B. Offer opportunities for members to volunteer
3. Meet the needs of church members and guests
 - A. Evaluate the current worship formats
 - B. Make changes to better accommodate people with physical handicaps
 - C. Create space for families to worship together

These goals revolve around community outreach and making Trinity receptive of the needs of those who want to worship with us. We will be looking for volunteers to help with the outreach. One of the ideas is setting up at community festivals to let people know what we already know, we have wonderful caring people in our church, and want them part of our church family.

I am asking teams to look at the goals and when possible to work to help meet the goals. As always, if any member of the church has ideas on how to support these goals, please contact me or any member of the Council.

Easter Lily Memorials

Please use this order form to honor and remember loved ones by purchasing one or more Easter lilies, which will decorate the church on Easter. Fill out and return this form to the Church Office with payment of \$12 per plant. Deadline for orders is Sunday, April 7. A booklet will be available Easter Day with the names the donors and those being remembered. Take your lily home after the service!

In Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Lent and Easter

Pastor David Eisenhuth

April 7 is the final Sunday in Lent. The conversation we will hear is amongst Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, Jesus’s second family. Jesus grew very fond of this family. He stayed there on his frequent trips to Jerusalem. They witnessed some of the most important events in Jesus’s life.

There are two Wednesday Lenten services left in April: April 3 and April 10. We will gather at 5:30 p.m. for a simple dinner followed by a service of evening prayer with Holy Communion beginning around 6:30 p.m. The lesson and homily will follow the events of Jesus’s last day on earth, from the Last Supper to his crucifixion.

The great drama of Holy Week unfolds for us beginning on Palm Sunday, April 14. Services will be at 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. Many churches read the entire Passion on Palm Sunday, perhaps to include those who don’t plan to attend services on Holy Thursday and Good Friday. We will try to retain the power of Holy Week and keep Palm Sunday as a joyful time to recall Jesus’s entry into Jerusalem, where he will celebrate Passover with his followers. The Palm Sunday service will begin somewhere other than the sanctuary, so we can bless our palms and process into the church to the rousing strains of “All Glory Laud and Honor.” At the beginning of the liturgy, we will hear the Gospel telling Jesus’s joyful entry into the city, and during the service we hear what happened next: Jesus cleanses the Temple. Our sermon will

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In Honor of: _____

Amount given: _____

Contributions for the lilies may be made payable to Trinity Lutheran Church. Please designate on your check “Easter Lilies”

From the Organ Bench

Pastor Greg Shook

Dear Flock,

As we continue to explore the various elements in our worship service, I wanted to take an opportunity to explore what is contained in our hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. Believe it or not, our hymnal contains the following: 10 different settings of the liturgy, a growing collection of hymns and songs honoring our tradition and including music from different cultures and backgrounds, all 150 Psalms for singing, prayer resources, service outlines for different services for various hours in the day, services for marriages, funerals, and healing, and *Luther's Small Catechism* (which includes the 10 Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, the Office of the Keys and Confession and the Sacrament of the Eucharist, various indices, and more). Our hymnal grounds our worship and is a treasure that reminds us that in Jesus Christ we are held together.

I want to draw attention to a part of the 10 settings for Holy Communion, the Hymn of Praise section of the communion liturgy. There are several options for this section in the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. The most familiar options are "Glory to God" and "This is the Feast." The "Glory to God" is used during Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, and the general seasons. "This is the Feast" is used during the Easter seasons and on festival days. For Christmas Eve the "Gloria" is replaced with the hymn "Angels We Have Heard on High."

The Eucharistic hymn "This is the Feast" was composed and prepared in 1975 for the *Lutheran Book of Worship* (LBW, the green book) by Russell Schulz-Widmar. This hymn is based on Saint John's vision in the fifth chapter of Revelation (Rev. 5:12-13): "saying with a loud voice, 'Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!'"¹² And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, 'To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!'"¹³

Drawing directly from the description of heaven in the Revelation to Saint John, our voices are joined to that heavenly multitude as we sing with them, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and



might and honor and glory and blessings!" (Rev. 5:12). Another scriptural reference that his hymn of praise draws from is the picture of the messianic banquet in Isaiah 25:6: "On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined." It also reflects New Testament images of wedding banquets, one of which can be found in Matthew 22:1-14, in which Jesus tells that the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet. "This Is the Feast" reminds us that all mercy flows from the Lamb of God our Lord Jesus Christ, and His all-atoning sacrifice and resurrection.

For Easter this year we will be using a festival setting of Setting 4, with brass and organ accompaniment and choral parts. This arrangement is by John Ferguson, the original composer of this setting.

May we all be blessed as we join with the company of heaven, preparing for the heavenly feast!

Soli Deo Gloria,
Pastor Greg



We are working to organize a handbell choir to play handbells at the Easter worship service. While reading music is not required, some musical knowledge is helpful. If you would be interested in joining us for a festive ringing on Easter, please contact Pastor Greg either by phone, (301)733-2878, or email, gshook@tlchag.org. Thanks!

Scholarship Packets Available

Scholarships for Trinity members attending or accepted to accredited colleges, universities, or trade schools are encouraged to pick up an scholarship application packet in the Church Office. Soon to be high school grads, returning college students, advanced degree and second career students, are all eligible as long as you are currently an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Applications must be returned by Friday, May 12, 2019 to be considered for the 2019-2020 academic school year. More details are included in the scholarship packet. Scholarships will be presented on Sunday, June 9 during a special Family Learning Time and Recognition at 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Social Ministry

Carol Brashears

LENTEN PROJECT

Our Lenten Project will be to collect personal hygiene products for our Food Pantry and Clothing Bank clients. This was a huge success last year. Your generosity with so many useful items was well received and appreciated by our clients. We will be collecting soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant, disposable razors, Chap Stick, combs and brushes, feminine hygiene products, hand cream, and lotion. Look for the boxes to place these items in Fellowship Hall and the narthex. These are the most requested items, and are things we take for granted. Please bring in a variety for all ages. Let's fill up the boxes this Lent.



Prayers: Conversations with God

Deacon Inge Dudda, OSSD

Dear Trinity Friends,

During the days of Lent, and looking forward to celebrating Jesus's resurrection at Easter, I am reminded of Jesus's prayer for his disciples and for us, called his high-priestly prayer, in John 17:20-26. Two points I want to highlight: Jesus prayed for future disciples (us in the 21st century!) and he prayed for the unity of his disciples with him and with God the Father. I am quoting verses 20 and 21: "I ask not only on behalf of these [the 12], but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me." Our proclamation of the Gospel in word and deed is powerful when we are in relationship with the Trinity. And how do we begin and sustain this relationship? Through *prayer!*

Thank you, brothers and sisters, for your willingness to be on the prayer chains and in the Tuesday morning prayer group. Do you think it pleases the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit when we trust and bring our needs, sorrows, gratitude, and joy to them? I think so, plus we live up to our congregation's name when we honor the Trinity in this way!

Please use the yellow prayer cards in the pews and in Fellowship Hall and place your requests in the offering plates. The prayer group and staff will pray for you. When bad things happen suddenly, we will activate the prayer chains so that many voices bring the same request to God in a short time. This prayer support will be a comfort for those going through tough times.

Peace be with you,
Inge



Easter Bulb Garden

Please use this form to order flowers for the bulb garden that will decorate the Sanctuary on Easter. You can take the flowers home after the service or you can donate them to be planted in the Trinity gardens. Please place your form in the collection plate or take it to the Church Office before April 7.

	Quantity:	Subtotal:
Hyacinth: 3 bulbs/pot, \$10/pot		
Pink	_____	_____
White	_____	_____
Blue	_____	_____
Tulips: 6 bulbs/pot, \$10/pot		
Red	_____	_____
Yellow	_____	_____
Pink	_____	_____
Purple	_____	_____
Mini daffodil: 3 bulbs/pot, \$7.50/pot	_____	_____
Large daffodil: 6 bulbs/pot, \$10/pot	_____	_____
TOTAL enclosed:	_____	_____

Prayer Ventures for April



1. Remember in prayer the eight young people working alongside our companions in Argentina, and Uruguay as part of the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program. Remember also Krystle Moraska and Ignacio Madrussan, YAGM country coordinators; Caitlyn Melillo, Horizon intern; and Alberto (Gustavo) Driau, ELCA regional representative for South America.

2. Give thanks for the coming of spring, with its stirring of new life, its blossoms and flowers, and its lengthening days filled with light. Pray for those who are suffering, feeling hopeless, or experiencing depression, that their spirits will be lifted and refreshed by the changing season, the care and encouragement of others and the newness we have in Christ.

3. God is our source of strength and forgiveness all day long, every day. Be glad, rejoice, and shout for joy!

4. Pray for the churchwide officers, synod bishops, and other elected members of the ELCA Church Council, as they gather for discussion, discernment, and decision making, that they might guide, support, and provide leadership for the churchwide organization and our church.

5. Pray that, as the body of Christ, we are able to perceive Christ in one another, affirm each other as new creations in Christ, and venture together into our communities and the world as bearers of the Gospel and as witnesses to what God is doing in the world for our sake.

6. Give thanks for those who help care for our infants and children—grandparents and relatives, nursery attendants, daycare workers, preschool teachers, and babysitters.

7. Pray that we resist judging the offerings and contributions of our brothers and sisters in Christ and that, instead, the Holy Spirit moves us to encourage and affirm one another in being generous in sharing what we have—time, money, resources, wisdom, skills, and spiritual gifts—with our neighbor.

8. Spring and summer bring severe weather and flooding to some regions of our nation. Pray that congregations, neighbors, and communities will work together to create disaster response plans and will gather resources to share in the event of a disaster. Pray for the safety and well-being of those who face the impact of storms, and give thanks for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, faith-based agencies, and other organizations as they bring care, hope, and healing to our neighbors in need.

9. Pray that we are energized to continue to work toward the goals and priorities identified in ELCA Future Directions 2025, helping our church to journey faithfully and effectively together in the years ahead to do what God is calling us to do.

10. Pray for congregations, Lutheran Services in America organizations, ecumenical partners, and community agencies that support men and women in prison and those re-entering society, encouraging their faith and hope and caring for their families. Pray for the development of resource networks, services, and places of grace and acceptance for those seeking to rebuild their lives after prison—spiritually, socially, emotionally, and economically.

11. Thank God for our special relationship with the United Church of Christ, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1997. Pray for the church, its members, and its leaders, and pray that together we find strength and new resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.

12. Remember in prayer the service and witness of the 10 young people serving alongside our companions in Hungary and Serbia as part of the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program, and the Rev. Rachel Eskesen, and Zachary Courter, YAGM country coordinators for Central Europe.

13. Pray that the fulfillment of God's promises and great love for us will permeate our thoughts and replace our sorrow and tears with joy.

14. *Palm Sunday.* Pray that, in the telling and retelling of the story of Jesus' passion, we capture a sense of God's boundless, sacrificial love for us that renews and deepens our faith.

15. Give praise and glory to God for the humility and sacrifice of Christ Jesus on the cross, that we might know and experience true love and life, now and eternally.

16. Reflect prayerfully on what the cross means to you, what we proclaim when we make the sign of the cross on ourselves or others, and how God turns an instrument of torture and death into a symbol of God's power and love and our new life in Christ Jesus.

17. Give thanks for our many opportunities to read, hear, study, and reflect on the word of God during worship, in Bible-study groups, at ELCA gatherings and events, in many languages, using our dog-eared, marked-up Bibles at home.

18. Ask God to inspire and equip us, through the work of the Spirit, to be servants in the world who exemplify and follow the teaching, actions, humility, and sacrifice of Jesus, who commanded his disciples and us, "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

19. *Good Friday.* Pray that our faith be uplifted and strengthened in the knowledge that God shows us mercy and grace, and that we understand the depths of our weakness and the darkness of humanity through the suffering and death of Jesus, son of God.

20. Pray for the relief of all in the world who suffer, that they might experience healing, hope and God's presence in their life and circumstances.

21. *Easter Day.* There's good news for everyone—Christ is risen! Alleluia! Through the life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God has broken every human restraint of sin, hopelessness, and death; we are set free to live life anew with joy, gratitude, and love. Give thanks and praise to God!

22. Pray that faith in Jesus Christ, the risen son of God, will give us the courage and enthusiasm to share the good news with the world, trusting that all who believe will be transformed by God's gift of love and forgiveness.

23. God has given us this and every day to live with purpose, freedom, and boldness in the world as redeemed children of God. Search for new, prayerful words and expressions to celebrate and be glad today!

24. Give thanks for choirs, musicians, rock bands, organists, cantors, and handbell choirs that share their creative gifts in praise and glory to God and invite us to express our faith and joy through diverse styles of music.

25. Pray for the work and advocacy of our church, partner organizations and communities that address the root causes of violence, and respond to the people and communities they affect. Pray that we remain

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150th Anniversary Celebration

Carol Brashears

PRAYERS & PRAISES FOR OUR ANNIVERSARY

During Lent we are asking each of you to think about prayers and praises for our 150th Anniversary Celebration. We have changed this a little bit since the announcement of the project. Please take one of the prayer cards available in the pews, in Fellowship Hall, and in the narthex, and write your prayer and praise on the card for our anniversary. The card will then be attached to a ribbon by a stapler. The card is easier to write on, and will help hold the ribbon down. We will then attach the ribbons to more ribbons to make a banner that we will hang on the balcony for Easter Sunday. The idea is twofold. We want a visual, to see how what 150 looks like and we also want to incorporate the Prayer Ministry that Deacon Inge Dudda is guiding. Look for ribbons in Fellowship Hall and the narthex during Lent and write your prayer! We are excited about this opportunity to celebrate our anniversary.

CELEBRATION AT PRAISE WORSHIP

Sunday, March 31, will be the date that our anniversary celebration will be at the Praise Worship Service. We will move the festivities to Fellowship Hall as we honor the significance of this service in our history. Pastor Micki Bond will be our special guest that day to help us celebrate.

COMING IN MAY

Our activities will continue in May at "Ladies Night Out." We will remember past "Mother-Daughter" Banquets as well as highlight the influence of women in the life of Trinity. Watch for more information closer to the event, but think about some of the women at Trinity who have touched your lives. We will also learn about "heart sisters." Come join the celebration!

COMING IN JUNE

June is the month for weddings, and so it will be for our 150th Anniversary Celebration, also. We will have pictures on display of past weddings at Trinity. We hope to be able to display some wedding gowns, too. There will even be a wedding reception with filled with the classics! Look for items you may have and would be willing to share for this event. More information will be available in the next newsletter.

Canoeing the Mountains

Pastor David Eisenhuth

It was long believed that the land west of the Missouri River was exactly like that which was east of it. Mountains were simply big hills one could easily climb. With the



U.S. still in its infancy, its leaders were keen on expanding territory. One great prize would be the discovery of a waterway to the Pacific Ocean. Shortly after the Louisiana Purchase, President Thomas Jefferson commissioned an expedition to find a shortcut to the great sea.

Captain Meriwether Lewis and his close friend Second Lieutenant William Clark chose a group of Army volunteers and started out of what they believed would be a few months long journey of discovery. Their expedition began in May 1804 in Pittsburgh. It made its way westward and eventually found the headwaters of the Missouri River. The men stood

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Prayers Ventures for April

committed to our convictions expressed in the ELCA social message on "community violence," no matter where our pursuit of justice and peace might lead us, or how long it might take to bring about meaningful change.

26. Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members, and others gathered for the assemblies of the Alaska and Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide, and encourage them in doing God's work in the world, proclaiming the gospel and growing the church.

27. Pray for the service and witness of Rev. Kirsten Fryer and Rev. Michael Parker, ELCA missionaries accompanying our companions in Egypt, as they work with the seminary community to provide refugee advocacy and support and an international congregation in Cairo.

28. We can all relate to the apostle Thomas, who questioned Jesus and asked for proof that God was alive and well in the world. Pray that the Holy Spirit will fill us with faith in God's loving presence and activity in the world, even when we are doubtful, curious, weak, or confused.

29. When we do God's work in the world, we share in the resources, assistance, and commitment of many partners, including the Lutheran World Federation, the World Council of Churches, and the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Thank God for our partners.

30. Consider how our lives manifest God's love and mercy each day; ask God's forgiveness for times when we have fallen silent about our faith or failed to let our witness shine brightly in the world.

Canoeing the Mountains

astride the small spring that would become a mighty river as it made its way southward to the Gulf of Mexico. They were sure if they went a mile or so westward they would find the river down which they would glide to the Pacific.

Much to their surprise, they literally went over the next rise and saw the Rocky Mountains. It is not recorded what was said as they glimpsed that rough terrain. They had come equipped for the journey—or so they thought. What would you bring along for an easy drift down a river? Canoes, of course. On seeing the Rocky Mountains, they knew it was a entirely new game. The canoes were useless and had to be ditched. They could not be carried over the mountains. When they got to the other side they knew they could make new canoes by burning out three trunks.

Every once and a while a book comes along that captures the imagination of the Church. One right now is *Canoeing the Mountains*. Its author, Tod Bolsinger, suggests strongly that any congregation that hopes to survive its journey into the future might do well to consider the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Published in April 2018, the book has taken the ELCA by storm, and rightly so. In 2013 the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America celebrated its 25th anniversary. Lots of hoopla marked the event, but there was nary a mention of the fact that in those 25 years of life, the denomination had lost 25 percent of its members! In just about every one of its congregations, the same thing was true. Consider, for example, what Trinity was like in 1990? Need I say more?

Canoeing the Mountains is a deeply disturbing book. It basically tells its reader that church as we all knew it is gone forever. We can look fondly back to the past, but it can never be the same. We can cling to tradition, but it will not fill the pews again or round out our budget. Congregations that try to do that are destined to slip away, dying agonizingly slowly. It makes one want to put the book down and turn on the TV.

Canoeing the Mountains is also a hugely encouraging book. It offers a vision of hope for a future full of mission to people who do not know the Gospel's story. That's what the church is all about—telling the story of God's love to a world that needs to hear it. It's not about butts in the pews so our budget can be met. But there is a great big caveat: a congregation that wants to be missional needs to be willing to embrace change boldly, and let go of a lot that seems sacred to its tradition. Now that's a challenge, isn't it?

Bolsinger tells his readers that given the choice of changing or dying, 90 percent of people choose to die. On the one hand, that's hard to grasp. Why would people choose to die when there is an alternative? But on the other hand, to give up what is sacred, known, attractive, and seemingly secure is downright scary. It might be better to hold onto tradition

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150th Anniversary Committee Meeting

The 150th Anniversary Committee will meet Tuesday, April 9, at 7 p.m. in Memorial Hall. All are welcome!

with both hands and hope for the best. Unfortunately, that won't work anymore. The congregation that does that will die. It might take a while, but the end is sure.

Trinity is blessed with leaders who want to peer into the future. For them, it's exciting but challenging. Church Council invites *you* on a journey of discovery. In May we will offer a study based on the concepts found in *Canoeing the Mountains*. The Monday night Bible Study will stop for the duration of this study to encourage as many as are willing to take the journey to come and get into the boat. The Lewis and Clark expedition lasted four years! This one will be a couple of weeks, but will be equally challenging. We will look at what is important to Trinity and must be maintained. We will look at the things that must be changed for us to become a missional congregation. Everything is on the table. Can we trust God enough to ditch the canoes if necessary? Can we climb the mountains ahead? Give it a try. The study will be Thursday nights. Dinner will be offered anytime from 5:30 to 6:30PM. The study will start promptly at 6:30. Child-care will be available. We should be done at 7:30, but you are free to leave if you must. Here is the schedule:

May 2, session I: Watch a National Geographic documentary of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

May 9, Session II: The landscape

June 6, Session III: The changing world

June 13, Session IV: Going off the map

June 20, Session V: Adaptation is everything

July 11, Session VI: Companions and saboteurs

July 18, Session VII: Everyone will be changed, especially the leader

The gaps in the schedule are there to accommodate a Senior Ministry Event, Jazz Vespers, the Synod Assembly, and the Independence Day holiday. We will read the actual book, available for a nominal cost in print or via media. If you desire, the congregation will pay for your book. If you can't make a commitment to attend each class, that's OK! The study will be led by Pastor David, Colleen Gildee, June Habeck, and Maggie Stone. Colleen, June, and Maggie were privileged to hear Tod Bolsinger in person at a recent seminar at the United Lutheran Seminary Philadelphia campus. They have the slides he used and are revved up to lead us on this journey. If you care about Trinity and its future, accept this invitation to canoe the mountains!

From the Desk of Deacon Peg

Deacon Peg Hardinge, OSSD

I haven't submitted anything for a while but I've been busy trying to keep my "plates in the air," I heartily assure you! Most critical on my agenda since my total knee surgery in October has been the creation and completion of special stoles for Pastor David and myself for our Earth Day sermon and celebration April 28 (the Sunday after Easter). These elaborate stoles are covered in plants, animals, birds, and images depicting the diversity of our planet. We will both wear them that Sunday. But that's not all! Pastor David's sermon will be about humanity's responsibility as stewards of the earth God gave us, and about doing what we can to protect, preserve, and share its abundance.

Since I am a Maryland Master Gardener (and we like to teach what we know, and share what we have) I have reached out to my fellow master gardeners with a request. I am collecting small potted herbs to give away the following Wednesday in our Food Pantry to any client who enjoys nurturing a plant and using fresh herbs in their meals. This may be a rare opportunity for them. Whatever remains of the donated plants can be given to anyone who can use them; here or elsewhere in the community. The potted herbs may also decorate the altar on the April 28, and Pastor David will pray blessings over the herbs and their future recipients during the service.

Next, in conjunction with our ongoing 150th anniversary, I am packaging 150 "Dutch Iris" flower bulbs in plastic bags of three bulbs each to be distributed to the first 50 families to walk in the door on April 28.

But *wait!*

It just gets better! This week I found out that the synod is working in conjunction with the Chesapeake Bay Trust to distribute 500 free Maryland native trees to be planted at either churches, schools, camps, or retirement communities, and Trinity has been approved for a minimum of 25 trees, which we will appropriately assign to these locations. Although there are restrictions as to where they can be planted, it is a wonderful opportunity for Trinity to help facilitate adding to the wildlife habitat and the beauty of our community and its ecological and watershed stability. The "blessing of the trees" will be the third addition to our service on April 28. So please mark this special occasion on your calendar and come help us celebrate our abundance!

I have kept pace with the coordination of our lay visitation team and the homebound members to whom they offer communion. I personally visit each homebound member so I

may meet and greet each one and put faces to the names I have assigned to team members. I plan to visit each one in three months.

I also keep myself apprised of what is happening with our students in college and graduate school. For Christmas, birthdays, and mid-terms, each student receives a greeting card or a hand written note with a gift card tucked inside. Just a little something to let them know we haven't forgotten them. Deacon Inge keeps them on our prayer list.

I am still teaching Bible studies; one at Lasting Change addiction treatment facility on Locust Street, where attendance averages three to four devoted women weekly, and a second study at Emerald Point community center, where there are six faithful regulars and up to four additional attendees (depending on the weather and how they are feeling, with arthritis and other chronic ailments being the reigning attendance-zapper). I am totally all-in with both groups, and we miss one another terribly if we have to miss a week. Jena Staley helps me every week at Lasting Change and fills in if I'm gone, but I'm on my own at Emerald Point.

I serve as a volunteer Maryland Mediator for the Community Action Council. When I am mediating, we frequently meet in Memorial Hall on a Saturday morning. At present, I have been mediating in a custody dispute that is still in the process of resolution. I am grateful to be allowed to offer Trinity for these meetings. It serves as another way to reach out to the community through the use of our building, when I am both present and participating in the mediation. If the room's furniture has to be moved around a little to meet the seating requirement, it is restored to order before I leave.

I continue to write the Praise Worship Prayers of the People weekly and attend that service regularly. The seminary at Gettysburg has students to send to the three churches for whom I had served as pulpit supply last summer and fall. That has given my tight schedule some relief this winter.

Lastly, I am on the Altar Guild and serve the third Sunday of the month for the 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. I serve as communion assistant at the 11 a.m. service on the third Sunday. I now work in the operating room at Meritus Medical Center part time, but I haven't slowed the pace of my life one iota. Plates in the air!

You know what? I've never felt so blessed as I have with all this madness of God calling me to be here, there, and everywhere! I think, "Pinch me! I'm dreamin'!" This one thing I know: that God has me doing exactly what He wanted me to do all along, and I thank Trinity for allowing me to do these things for His glory, right here through my own church! I never thought I'd have the energy for all this, but He's given me what I need, exactly when I needed it. But, then again, that doesn't surprise me one bit.

Blessings,
Peg Hardinge
Order of Saint Stephen Deacon

Pastor's Ponderings

Beyond the odd circumstances of this birth and the wonder that surrounds the coming into the world of every child, that casual observer could certainly not understand exactly how precious this child was. In fact, here in that lowly manger lay the savior of the world. Who could have guessed that God's plan for the redemption of the world would be right there in human form—a baby, nevertheless? That simple Shaker box meant for the storage of pins and needles or buttons selling for \$20,000? No way!

But yes, the birth of this child was but the beginning of something which would come full circle some 30 or 33 years later. On a Friday afternoon, during the annual celebration of the Jewish Passover, that same boy, now a man, would meet a horrible fate. He was crucified by the Romans, having been found guilty of trumped-up charges of blasphemy by the religious leaders. It was a convenient and expedient way to get rid of a trouble-making rabbi from Galilee. This man, Jesus, spoke of peace and preached about the value of each human life. To some this was a great threat.

As we see the events of Holy Week unfolding for us this year, I hope you will take time to reflect on how things that seem so certain can be turned upside down by a God who dares to intrude into our well-planned world. We think we know purpose and function. We believe we can plan our destiny and make it happen through our own efforts. But God has surprises for us. From his birth in that lowly stable to a cross and a borrowed tomb, the story unfolds, surprise after surprise. And then it all gets twisted up again when the tomb is found to be empty because Jesus is alive. May your life be filled with surprise at how precious God see you, so much so that Jesus offers you new and abundant life.

Literacy Council Needs Volunteers

Brenda Vanover

The Literacy Council needs volunteer tutors to teach Adult Basic Literacy and/or English as a Second Language. The two-day tutor training workshop is held from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, May 11 and Saturday May 18 at Benevola United Methodist Church, 19925 Benevola Church Rd., Boonsboro. For registration or more information, see Brenda Vanover in Room 106 at Trinity, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call (301)739-4208 or email office@literacycouncilofwashingtoncounty.com or register at www.literacyofwcmd.org. Your new student can't wait to hear from you! You can make a difference in your student's life!

Celebrating 150 Years of Great Food!

Judy Melby Robinson

The recipe we're highlighting in April is again from the Trinity cookbooks, in hopes you may enjoy trying out one of our member's contributions. This yummy desert is from Linda Tantillo, who with her deceased husband, Vincent, is a long-time devoted member of Trinity. Linda sang in the choir for many years and gave of her time to several committees over the years. Thank you, Linda!

BAVARIAN APPLE TORTE

3/4 c. butter	3 eggs
1/3 c. sugar	1 1/2 tsp. vanilla
1/2 tsp. vanilla	4 c. apple slices
1 1/2 c. flour	2/3 c. sugar
2 (8 oz.) cream cheese	1 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 c. sugar	slivered almonds

Mix and press into well-greased 9x13" pan: 3/4 c. butter, 1/3 c. sugar, 1/2 tsp. vanilla, 1 1/2 c. flour. Beat the following, pour over crust mixture: cream cheese, 1/2 c. sugar, 3 eggs, 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla. Then mix together the following and spoon over cheese mixture: apples, 2/3 c. sugar, 1 tsp. cinnamon. Sprinkle generously with almonds and bake @ 350 for 55-60 min. Cool and refrigerate before cutting/serving.

Recipe for the Month

Scarlett Michael

Fellowship and Parish Life has chosen a recipe for the month that is not in any of our cookbooks, but is a trusted recipe submitted by Kathy Griemsmann. Kathy enjoys taking this simple recipe to potlucks.

SPINACH QUICHE

2 10-ounce blocks of chopped spinach
8 ounces of cream cheese
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese (I always used freshly grated)
1/2 teaspoon garlic salt
Dash pepper
2 eggs
Muenster cheese slices

Boil and drain the spinach (don't cook it too long, you want to keep it bright green). Squeeze out the excess water a little at a time—I do this by the handful, just make sure it is cool enough. Line a casserole dish with the cheese slices. Add the spinach, softened cream cheese, and remaining ingredients together and mix until thoroughly incorporated, then fill the casserole with the mixture and cover top with the remaining cheese slices. Cover with foil and bake at 350 degrees for approximately 30 to 45 minutes until bubbly. Remove the foil for the last 15 minutes of cook time.

Lent and Easter

be a conversation amongst those who were in the crowd as Jesus rode the donkey into Jerusalem.

That evening we will have a celebration of the Passover. This meal uses special foods, readings, and music to recall how the Lord brought his people out of their slavery in Egypt into the freedom of the promised land. This is a traditional observance of the event. We do not Christianize it by celebrating the Eucharist. We are faithful to the *Haggada*, which is the “script” passed on from generation to generation in the Jewish faith. Because of the complexity of the preparation for this service, we must limit the participants to 40. Reservations are necessary and will be available in March, ending on April 7. Information about time will be given when you make a reservation. Reservations will be taken at worship or you can call or e-mail the church office.

At 7 p.m. on April 18 we remember Jesus’ last meal with his followers. The liturgy begins with a solemn confession. The absolution, which was reserved from the confession on Ash Wednesday, is now offered. As we share the peace, we place ourselves at table with the Lord. At the conclusion of the Eucharist, as Jesus left the upper room and went to the garden of the Mount of Olives, we follow, and the liturgy takes a decidedly dark turn. We are amongst those who flee when the Romans come to take Jesus away. This is symbolized by the stripping of the altar. We leave in silence.

The liturgy for Good Friday, April 19, begins at 8 p.m. We hear Jesus’ last words from the cross. Each of the seven words is marked by the extinguishing of candles and darkening of the church. As Jesus gives up his spirit to the silence of death, we sit in our darkened sanctuary. As the light returns, we pray together. A solemn benediction anticipates the coming of Easter. This is a powerful service. You will want to be there so you can fully appreciate what God offers you on Easter—new life through Jesus’s resurrection.

The Easter Vigil is 8 p.m. on April 20 is a quiet service that begins with the blessing of our Pascal Candle for 2019. We will hear a series of lessons that recall God’s saving action in Hebrew Scripture. We avoid the use of the term “Old Testament” because it minimizes the importance of Hebrew scripture, that helps us understand the significance of a new covenant. At the conclusion of the vigil, we leave in hushed anticipation of the joy of Easter. The service is in All Saints’ chapel and will last about 60 minutes.

On Easter Sunday we will have a unity service at 10 a.m. In place of an Easter breakfast following the service, coffee and special treats will be offered in Memorial Hall, before and after the service. Our Parish Life and Fellowship Team wanted to give team members time prepare Easter din-

Continued next column.

Our Prayer Ministry

Pastor David Eisenhuth

Our Prayer Ministry is humming along. We have more than 60 people on our prayer chain. A small group meets after Bible Study on Tuesday mornings for prayer. And plans are underway for prayer stations to be set up in the church and on the sidewalk on Potomac Street so people can write requests, deposit them in a secure box, and feel confident that their requests will be held up to God at various levels, including our staff meetings.

Deacon Inge Dudde and Pastor David want to offer a regular service of healing. This would be a time for people to come together for small group worship, including a celebration of the Eucharist. As part of the service, people will be invited to receive the individual laying on of hands for healing, with anointing of oil as a cross on their foreheads. This can be done for the individual’s own intentions or as an intercession for someone else or something of concern to that person. The laying on of hands is done privately, so as to offer the person the opportunity to have an brief opportunity with the person offering prayer. These may include any of our pastors and deacons. It can be an intense experience.

Healing was one of the marks of the early church, and is still a charism (gift) of Christ to his church. Come and experience our first healing service on Thursday, April 11, in All Saints’ Chapel beginning at 7 p.m. Pastor David and Deacon Inge would be happy if a handful of people want to come into God’s healing light. Hopefully we can do this on a regular basis and maybe grow into the need to be in our beautiful sanctuary. Please plan to come! For, according to the Epistle of James, “Is any among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.” (James 5:14-16a)

Lent and Easter

ner for their own families. Please come before the service and/or stay afterward to greet your fellow worshippers! We pull out all the stops to make this a very special service. *The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed!* Remember to bring a bell to ring when we proclaim the resurrection.

Jazz Vespers in April will be a special time for us to hear music with a resurrection theme. That’s the April 25 at 7 p.m., with a wine and cheese reception to follow.

“Thank You!”

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the kindness, love, and support that you extended to Lisa during her illness and to her daughters and parents since her passing. So many cards of sympathy and condolence have been received that we are unable to thank each individually, so please accept our thanks in this way. Thank you to all who came to the visitation and memorial service; your presence and well-wishes meant a lot. A special thank you to Pastors David, Greg, and Torben for their ministry to us during our time of grief, and to them and Andy Wallace for their roles in the wonderful memorial service. Lastly, we particularly thank the members of the Fellowship Committee for preparing the very fine luncheon that followed the service. Trinity is truly a loving congregation and we are grateful.

Emory and Geri Anderson
Kristina and Betsy Norgard

Dear friends at Trinity Lutheran Church,

Thank you so very much for allowing the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts Choirs to use your beautiful church for our recent collaboration with Westminster Choir College’s Schola Cantorum. I so appreciate you and all that you did to make yesterday be such a special day for us and for the Hagerstown community! Dr. James Jordan was so very pleased with every aspect of your beautiful sacred space for their performance. He and the students were delighted with your hospitality. The TLC staff was such a wonderful team with whom to coordinate! Colleen coordinated it all so well, the facilities were so well prepared, Ricky managed the morning student return so well, Greg was available for every little detail throughout the day, the lunch was delicious and the kitchen crew was so welcoming. I could go on and on! What wonderful partners you are with BISFA. Thanks again!

Sincerely,
Melissa J. Mackley
Lead Teacher—Vocal Music Department
Barbara Ingram School for the Arts

Easter Jazz Vespers

Come and celebrate the Easter Season with jazz, at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 25. Listen and join in ancient chant music, jazz standards, and sing-along New Orleans style jazz. A wine and cheese reception will follow the service in Memorial Hall.



Birthdays

- 2 Aaron Dopson
- 2 Jane Drawbaugh
- 2 Timothy Higgins
- 2 Kathy King
- 2 Patrick McCarthy
- 4 Michael Brashears
- 10 Jeffrey Reed
- 11 Kimberly Kline
- 11 Georgia Newman
- 12 Nancy Lehman
- 12 Sarah McCarthy
- 13 John Bentley
- 17 Shanta Pickett
- 23 Stephanie Angles
- 24 Therese Ramey
- 27 Bradley Kline
- 30 Leslie Allen
- 30 Kelli Palamar
- 30 Shane Pryor

Anniversaries

- 2 Jack & Diana Pryor
- 3 Scott & Diona Minnich
- 12 Raymond & Dorinda Roof*
- 13 Linda & George Lemen*
- 16 James & Kelly Rohrer
- 22 Craig & Judy Robinson
- 23 Charlie & Jeanne Riley
- 25 Kevin & Nanette Dagliano

* 50 years or over

Widows Luncheon

Chapter II Widows Group lunch at Western Sizzlin Steak House, Halfway Boulevard, will be held on Monday, April 8 at 11:30 a.m. All widows are welcome. For reservations, please call Frances Harshman at (301)739-3483.

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

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Washington County Literacy Council: (301)739-4208
Tuesday and Thursday: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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**“Blessed is the one
who comes in the
name of the Lord!”**

Mark 11:9