

Pastor's Ponderings

Pastor David Eisenhuth

The Great Vigil of Easter is one of the most important services in the life of the church. Like Christmas Eve, it anticipates the following day, in this case, the resurrection of our Lord. The liturgy consists of the blessing of the Paschal candle which represents the risen Lord himself. A series of readings from Hebrew scripture then recounts God's saving grace in rescuing God's people from death and bringing them to a new life, most pointedly in the story of the Exodus. Baptism follows. If a baptism cannot be arranged, the congregation reaffirms the vows of baptism. The service continues with the first Eucharist of Easter. The vigil is supposed to begin at 11 p.m. and take the worshippers to the hour of Christ's arising.

Apart from having a combined service with other churches, the Easter Vigil is usually a low-key event. We have ours in All Saints' Chapel. Last year we had about 20 in attendance. I stop the service at the affirmation of baptismal vows, because I think celebrating the first Easter Eucharist is anticlimactic in that setting. Up until this year, in my 40-plus years of ministry, I arranged for exactly one baptism at an Easter Vigil. Most likely that's the case because the family celebration, which generally follows a baptism, would have to take place at 10 p.m. Moreover, late evening is not a good time for sleepy babies to have water poured on their heads!

Late last year, Earl Stoner asked me if I would baptize his great-grandson, Branson. I agreed, but setting a date didn't happen until February. Earl and his wife, Cynthia, began bringing the child to worship in February. Because worship was a new experience for this lively four-year-old, he was unsure as to what was happening at any given point. When he would come up to the altar rail he would grab the rail and grimace at me. Yikes! I never had the opportunity to talk with him except to say "goodbye" as he left church with his great-grandparents.

Earl eventually asked me to baptize Branson on Easter. Not sure of how Branson would react to the whole thing, especially in front of a church full of people, I suggested that Easter Vigil would be a better time. I explained

that there would be a handful of people there, and if Branson got upset, we could stop and wait until he was able to start again. Earl and Cynthia agreed. We set a date for them to bring Branson to my office so we could talk about the service. We also had a run-through on the afternoon of Holy Saturday.

Theology is something that is hard to grasp for any of us. It's especially challenging for a child Branson's age. How do you explain the concept of sin, and how it is removed by Jesus' sacrifice? What does the water mean? How about a cross of oil marked on the newly baptized head? And a candle lit from that great big one in the very center of things. I did my best and prayed for the best with Branson.

It must have worked. The night of the Vigil, I told Branson's family he should be in the chapel for the blessing of the candle and then he could go to the new children's Pray Area to wait for that part of the service wherein we would actually baptize him. When we got to that point, Maggie Stone, our assisting minister, went to get him and told him it was time. He responded by saying, "I'm ready for bath time." Wow! Isn't that an amazing way of looking at Baptism? In adult language, baptism is the washing of water for the forgiveness of sin. In a child's way of think-

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The Serving Heart

June Habeck-Holler

A man came in the food bank on May 9 and explained to the volunteer that he had just been given a terminal diagnosis. He asked the TLC gentleman if he could talk to the pastor. Unfortunately our Pastor David was on vacation, Pastor Greg was recuperating from a medical procedure, and Pastor Torben was away. But this volunteer stayed on his phone until he found an available pastor in town for this man in need.

Thanks, Ralph.

Many toil in loving service for years in anonymity with no recognition. But one of our own was recently brought to the forefront and acknowledged. More than 100 Lutherans gathered at Carroll Lutheran Village, a retirement/nursing facility in Westminster, Maryland, the evening of May 5 to recognize the efforts of 14 Christians who have been nominated for their long-standing, humble, tireless service for others. This 22nd year event, called the 2018 Delaware-Maryland Synod Conference Awards for Significant Lay Ministry, spotlighted persons from nine Maryland conferences.

Ralph Conrad was recognized for unceasing years of loving, faithful care of those in need and of service to the church in the Washington County Conference.

Attending the event from Trinity were Pastor David Eisenhuth, Colleen Gildee, Jeff Reed, June Habeck-Holler, Ginny Doarnburger, Ralph and Judy Conrad, their son Michael, daughter Christie, and granddaughters Sarah and Abby Garner. Bishop Bill Gohl presented the honorees with words of praise and an engraved award.

Ralph surprised both our pastor and the bishop when, after their words of praise had concluded and they expected Ralph to take his seat, he took the microphone to express how service to others was such a blessing to him and to thank all those who assist him in outreach—especially Jeff Reed.

TLC is also grateful to this servant of God who is nearly every day at Trinity, repairing whatever is broken in the building, covering the Food Pantry for those who are late, absent, or at lunch, keeping inventory of food supplies in the Food Pantry and replenishing them weekly, supporting local veterans with food and travel assistance, working with Fellowship and Parish Life in the kitchen, serving repeatedly on Mutual Ministry, Social Ministry, Call Committees and wherever support is needed.

Pastor David related that Trinity members describe Ralph as dedicated, patient, helpful, sincere, willing, and compassionate. Psalm 112:4 describes “the upright [as] gracious and full of compassion,” and Proverbs 11:17 tells us

that a “kind man benefits himself.” We are thankful every day that Ralph is working among us.

The synod staff wrote in the program: “we are aware that the reward recipients and all others who serve in Christ’s name do not do so for recognition; however, by recognizing the many forms of ministry that occur within congregations, organizations and faith-based agencies, we hope to inspire others to serve similarly.”

A prayerful thanks also for all our volunteer workers and the growing remnant of the faithful at Trinity!



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Food Pantry

Boxes of generic crackers (like Saltines), box mixes for cookies and cakes, snack packs of animal crackers for children, cereal, and prepared snacks for the homeless. Remember to bring in your extra produce

from home gardening over the summer!

Clothing Bank

All sizes of sheet sets (especially twin size), women’s underwear (sizes 6,7,8, and 9), sneakers, summer clothes, and hangers with flocking (felt, velvet).

PONDER THIS

“Try to keep your soul always in peace and quiet, always ready for whatever our Lord may wish to work in you.”

—Saint Ignatius

At a Glance: TLC’s Food Pantry & Clothing Bank

	2019 Jan - Apr*	2018 Jan - Apr	% Increase (decrease)
Food Pantry			
Families	511	534	
Individuals	1,253	1,287	(2.6)
Clothing Bank			
Families	666	696	(4.3)

* January 2019: Clothing Bank was closed 3 days to move to new location

From the Organ Bench

Pastor Greg Shook

Dear Flock,

My mind has been wandering and processing a little, so try to stay with me through this.

We had such wonderful services Holy Week, especially Maundy Thursday through Easter Day. I also like the readings that follow for the Sundays after Easter. I think so often we wade through the reflective time of Lent and the emotional heaviness that comes with Holy Week that we get to the uplifting time of Easter and then think, now what? But it's sort of like those info-mercials on television that make this incredible offer for cookware, clothes, appliances, and more. At the end of the sales pitch, there's always another incredible moment where the announcer says, "But wait, there's more!" Just when you thought it was over, there's even more. The Sundays after Easter give us the "But wait, there's more!" pitch. Just when you thought what could possibly follow the hope offered to us through the miraculous resurrection, there is more.

In the gospel lesson for the Third Sunday of Easter, we find Simon Peter and other disciples about to embark on another fishing trip. Unrecognized by the disciples, Jesus asks if they've caught any fish. Upon hearing their frustration of an unsuccessful time, Jesus encourages them to toss the net over the *other* side of the boat. When they pull the nets in, they are so full it took all of them to bring in the nets. It was then that Jesus is recognized. And when the disciples come ashore, they see a charcoal fire with fish on it, along with bread. Jesus says, "Come, have breakfast." He invites them to be in community to eat and fellowship.

But wait, there's more! Jesus then asks Simon Peter, "Do you love me?" He asks not just once, but three times. Peter answers each time "Yes, I do love you, Lord." Jesus responds to each of Peter's responses; "Feed my lambs . . . Take care of my sheep . . . Feed my sheep." With the fostering of community, there are responsibilities to be fulfilled. Christ calls us to be in community with one another, the good and the not-so-good all rolled up together.

One of my favorite songs from Broadway is "Do You Love Me," from *Fiddler on the Roof*. Tevye asks his wife Golde, "Do you love me?" Her response is, "What!?!?" The song continues with a touching back and forth. Golde says, "For 25 years I've . . ." and lists many things that she has done throughout their marriage. Tevye responds each time with, "But Golde, do you love me?" Of course, by the end of the song they realize that in fact they do love each other. There is great strength in the building of community. However, the community must be built on a foundation of love and caring that is genuine. It is more than going through



the motions, more than just "keeping on" without stopping to think of why we are doing the things we are doing. Is it genuine? Is it for personal gain or recognition? Is it founded on love? Jesus also asks us as followers, and as a church, "Do you love me?" Like Golde, our answer is "I suppose we do." Then let us live it, build on it, and nurture it. Tolerance, acceptance, hospitality, understanding—all basic things that nurture love in Christ's name through all things. In meetings, in worship, and in our fellowship times together, the genuineness must be there. Then, and only then, will people "know we are Christians by our love."

Soli Deo Gloria!
Pastor Greg

CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY—JUNE 9

At 11 a.m. worship we will celebrate the theme "Seeds for Singing" featuring texts that speak of the "seeds" of praise, hope, and love that were manifested in the ministry of Christ. Our singing "seeds" will include the declaring of our Alleluias, the "seeds of ministry" that are the responsibility of all of us as we live and tend God's garden, the "seeds of praise" that should be ongoing in our lives, the "seeds of community" that we should plant and nurture from our time at the table, and the "ultimate seeds" in the example of Christ who modeled how we should live in community with all our brothers and sisters. The Parish Choir will sing five anthems accompanied by organ, piano, and several guest instrumentalists. Please join us on the Day of Pentecost for this musical celebration.

NarCan Training

June Habeck-Holler

Council has approved Trinity hosting a NarCan training session conducted by the Health Department, primarily for outreach volunteers to be equipped to revive an overdosed addict. We are looking at Tuesday, June 18 at 2 p.m. at TLC for a 30-minute session in Fellowship Hall. Members of Outreach and Council will be attending, but it is open to anyone in the congregation.

NarCan is a spray that is applied to someone who may have overdosed on drugs. It will immediately revive them and defuse their high. If it turns out they aren't overdosing, NarCan will not harm them.

Prayers: Conversations with God

Deacon Inge Dudda, OSSD

Dear Trinity Friends,

On May 3, 2019, an article appeared in the *Herald-Mail* newspaper about the observance of the National Day of Prayer on May 2 by the Greencastle-Antrim community. Some of their petitions are worth praying over and over again, by us at Trinity:

For the healing of a lost and broken nation:

“Lord that you will take the hatred and turn it into love for one another. That you, almighty God, will take the violence and turn it into peace. And then you will take our dividedness and bring about unity. And that you, Lord, will help our country find its way back to you, knowing that you, almighty God, are our only hope for restoration and blessing.”

For love of neighbor:

“We have to recognize the humanity of the others that we are charged with protecting and taking care of. We have to recognize that God loves them, just as God loves us.”

For love of family:

“Give us a love that we need to love our family, as You love us.”

Copies of the article are at the Fellowship Hall information table and in the Narthex upstairs. In those places you can also pick the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America *Prayer Ventures* for June, and yellow prayer cards for your prayer requests. God wants to have a relationship with us, He hears our prayers!



New: Summer Service

Pastor David Eisenhuth

Each Saturday during the summer we are going to try a new service. At 5 p.m. we will have a worship service called **30 Minutes, Start to Finish**. That's right . . . our service will be 30 minutes. It will be shaped for those who don't have a lot of experience with worship. It will consist of a greeting, scripture-Bible study-homily-questions and answers, prayers, and a song (no paper booklet necessary). Sometimes this kind of experience is called a "Seekers Service." We intend it for people outside the congregation as well as for those at Trinity who want to try something new, too. Light refreshments will be served. It will be in the chapel with access from Potomac Street. The intimacy of All Saints' Chapel hopefully will encourage an atmosphere of trust and a willingness to explore our faith. Pastor David will be soliciting ten people each week to promise to be there. We don't want to invite new people to an empty room. Spread the word.

Pentecost & Church Music Sunday

Pastor David Eisenhuth

The Easter Cycle concludes on Sunday, June 9 as we recall the coming of the Holy Spirit to a bunch of dolts who never seem to get what Jesus is saying. That's perhaps a bit unfair to call the disciples dolts. But that's how they are often portrayed by the Gospel writers. Perhaps, however, they couldn't understand what Jesus was saying about his ministry—especially the death part—without the gift of the Spirit. That event gave them super powers, manifested in what must have been utter chaos as they began to preach in the various languages of the throng of pilgrims gathered in Jerusalem for the Jewish festival of Pentecost. This will also be Church Music Sunday, a time for us to honor the musicians who bring life to our services, both in Fellowship Hall and in the sanctuary.

The following Sunday is the only day of the church year where we celebrate a doctrine. This one is about our understanding of God's revelation that God is three-in-one, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It's not easy to understand, but the third of the ecumenical creeds, the Athanasius Creed helps us to see who God really is. It's long. We only use it once a year. The language is somewhat (hint: understatement!) condemnatory, but it shows us the importance of God's hugeness.

Canoeing the Mountains

Pastor David Eisenhuth



Our study on the book *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory*, by Ted Bolsinger, began last month with a showing of a National Geographic video about the 1804 to 1807 expedition of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. Having completed the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, which vastly increased the territory of the United States, President Thomas Jefferson tasked Lewis and Clark to assemble a group of volunteers to explore the new territory and ultimately find the long dreamt of water route from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean. Their paradigm of what lay west of the Missouri was clearly wrong. They believed the route to the Pacific would be a slow flowing river, passing through rolling hills, right to the ocean. Instead they encountered the Rocky Mountains. Their strategy for this Corp of Discovery had to change dramatically. First to go were the canoes in which they had ridden to the mouth of the Missouri, and in which they planned to coast to the Pacific.

Bollinger tells us in no uncertain terms that the church of the last century is dead and buried. If Christianity is to survive and spread the Gospel into this new era, it must change and adapt. The same is true for any congregation. The glories of times past offer no guarantee that a congregation will survive in uncharted territory. That's the bad news. The good news is that there is hope. The Holy Spirit is pushing us onto a bright future. But we have to trust it and examine and use all the tools available to us. The cherished canoes of 150 years may have to be ditched for something we haven't, as yet, thought of.

We are in our 150th year of life as Trinity Lutheran Church. Don't forget *Evangelical* is in there, too. That means we are committed to a Lutheran understanding of reaching out to tell people of sin and grace. What better way to celebrate these many years than to build a new future? Even if it is scary to think about having to give up some stuff and at the same time embrace new things, it has to be done, or the rest shall be history!

The study continues on Thursdays in June—June 6, June 13, and June 20—with some exceptions to account for Jazz Vespers and Independence Day, July 4. The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall with a light dinner; study begins at 6:30 p.m. In July there will be three more sessions. The book is available through Amazon.com, or we can order a copy for you through the office. You can pay or have a complimentary copy, as you choose.

The first sessions had 30 people in attendance. Pretty good? Yes. However, the very future of our church is at stake, and only 20 percent of our worshipping congregation came out. That puts it into proper perspective. If you were not there, join us for a voyage of discovery. If you have to miss a session or two, that's fine. The materials to supplement the book are available for your use at home. A journey like this is scary, exhilarating, confusing, inspiring, sad, joyful—all rolled up in one. We can't do it without the Holy Spirit and without the faith of brothers and sisters in Christ. That's you!

Pastor's Ponderings, Continued

ing, "I'm dirty and I need to get clean." Either way, Jesus's death and resurrection takes away our stain of sin and replaces it with the grace of new life. The earthly element of water conveys this truth.

There are many moments in the life of any pastor that he or she always remembers. Some are sad, like funerals of good people whose lives embody faith. Marriages can be memorable because of the foibles of something a bride or groom really wants—the best man being a German shepherd? Baptisms stand out, too. Although in truth I have probably done 300 to 400 of them and can only recall a few names. But this one, a young man named Branson . . . well I will always remember it fondly. To see child-like faith at work was amazing. He stood up from the font, dripping wet, with a huge smile and a very bright look. Was it the candlelight? Maybe. But I think it was the new life the Holy Spirit had put into him. Of course, I had promised him after his baptism he could sprinkle everyone there with water from the font. He and I did so with gusto. Are you ready for your bath time?

Jazz Vespers for June

Jazz Vespers for June will focus on the Holy Spirit. Join us on Thursday, June 27 at 7 p.m. for Evening Prayer with a Jazz beat. Refreshments follow the service. The group is taking a vacation break for July and August and expects to resume in September.

JUN 2019

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
8:45am Praise Worship Service 10am Conf. Class 10am Sunday School 11:00am Traditional Service 1pm Worship & Music Mtg.	02	1pm Parish Life 7pm Boy Scouts	10am Bible Study 1:30pm Sr. Ministry 7pm Property	10am Social Ministry 6pm Crochet Group 7:30pm Parish Choir	6pm Canoeing the Mountains 6:30pm Praise Band		9am HARC Hike
Pentecost Music Sunday 8:45am P/W Service 10am Scholarships, Church Mtg. 11:00am Traditional Service 12pm Church Mtg	09	5:30pm Civilian 7pm Boy Scouts	10am Bible Study 6:30pm Mutual Min 6:30pm Personnel 6:30pm Anniversary Team	5:30 Civilian Karaoke 6:30pm Christian Ed	5:30pm Exec Team 6pm Canoeing the Mountains		5pm Worship Service
8:45am Praise Worship Service 11:00am Traditional Service	16	7pm Boy Scouts	10am Bible Study 2pm NarCan Training	6pm Crochet Group 7pm Wind Festival	6pm Canoeing the Mountains	Newsletter Articles Due	5pm Worship Service
8:45am Praise Worship Service 11:00am Traditional Service	23	7pm Boy Scouts	10am Bible Study 6:30pm Council		7:00 pm Jazz Vespers	5pm Community Meal	5pm Worship Service
8:45am Praise Worship Service 11:00am Traditional Service	30	01	02	03	04	05	06

Office Closed
July 4th Holiday

Office Closed



Bible Quiz

Which follower of Jesus preached to the crowds after receiving the Holy Spirit on Pentecost?

A. John
B. Peter
C. Mary Magdalene
D. Paul

Answer: B (See Acts 2:14ff.)

Bible Quiz

While in Jerusalem for Pentecost, people from many faraway lands miraculously heard the disciples preaching in their own native languages. Which of the following modern-day places was/were represented?

A. Egypt
B. Libya
C. Crete
D. Rome
E. All of the above
F. A, B and D

Answer: E (See Acts 2:9-11.)

*over 75

- 6/1 Diana Markle
- 6/3 Penny Gaver
- 6/5 Lisa McCoy
- 6/7 Deborah Shank
- 6/8 Willa Kay Bowers*
Max Conrad
- 6/9 Jeremy Flinchbaugh
- 6/13 Luna Jefferson
- 6/15 Dorothy Wallace*
- 6/16 Virginia Doarnberger*
London Hershey
Kenneth Leedy, Jr.*
Lori Mueller
- 6/18 Michael Gorsuch
- 6/19 Deanna Dopson
Peggy Hardinge
- 6/21 Mia Brashears
Carol Martin*
Lynn McNamee
- 6/22 Amie Scheer
- 6/25 June Habeck
Christine Stowell
- 6/29 Barbara Winebrenner



*40 years or more

- 6/2 Gary and Julie Hammond*
- 6/7 Edward and Sandra Wiebel Jr.*
- 6/8 Brian and Lois Herchenrother
- 6/10 Earl and Cynthia Stoner*
- 6/15 Keith and Aime Scheer
- 6/22 Michael and Anne Mowen
- 6/30 Clyde and Wilma Condo III*

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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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