

From the Organ Bench

Pastor Greg Shook



Greetings for a New Year!

Over the next few months we will explore some elements of worship, their origin(s), and why they are there. Over the 40+ years I've been involved with church music and worship planning, I've heard some interesting comments. Some of my favorites include "What is this Epiphany stuff?" "Oh, it's Lent. That means it's time for sad music." and "What's a Kyrie?" There really are good reasons why we have these different parts of our worship and celebrate specific feast days during our church year. But first, a little history.

We'll travel back to the Middle Ages (circa 476-1450, give or take) to when early music of the Christian church consisted of single-line melody that had no accompaniment or harmony. We know this as Gregorian Chant (also plain-song chant or plainchant). It's a smooth and free-flowing vocal line that subtly follows the inflections of the Latin text. We still have a few chants in our current hymnal, probably the most popular being "Of the Father's Love Begotten" (ELW 295).

In time, it became necessary to assemble an ever-growing body of music into an organized arrangement, or *liturgy*. *Liturgy* refers to the set order of a church service and to the structure of each service. The task organizing music extended over several generations, although tradition credits Pope Gregory the Great (590-604) with collecting and organizing (codifying) the melodies. These Gregorian melodies number more than 3,000, and form an immense collection of music, nearly all of it anonymous—the authors are unknown. Chant is often referred to as a kind of musical speech.

As liturgies evolved, the Roman Catholic Church divided its services into two categories: (1) the daily *Offices*, a series of services celebrated at various hours of the day in monasteries and convents, and (2) the Mass. The Mass is a reenactment of the sacrifice of Christ for his people. It is the most



solemn ritual of the Roman Catholic Church, and the one generally attended by public worshippers. The Mass texts were written in Latin, the language of the ancient Romans and the language of learning throughout the Middle Ages and Renaissance. The collection of prayers that makes up the Mass (its liturgy) fall into two categories: (1) the *Proper*, texts that vary from day to day throughout the church year, depending on the feast being celebrated; and (2) the *Ordinary*, the texts that remain the same in every service. There are chant melodies for each section of the ceremony. In this way, Gregorian chant has been central to the celebration of the Mass through the centuries. The Mass remains the primary service in the Roman Catholic Church, and, in various altered forms, still gives churches a basic structure for their worship.

There is a quote of Martin Luther's: "Take away the Mass, destroy the church." So, as Lutherans, we retain parts of this

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From the Organ Bench

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ancient liturgy in our worship today. It doesn't matter whether the worship category is folk, praise, traditional . . . all have their roots in the ancient liturgy of the church. In various forms and settings, we retain these parts:

- Introit (the gathering hymn or music)
- Kyrie ("Lord, have mercy")
- Gloria ("Glory to God" in the form of a hymn of praise)
- Credo (the creed)
- Alleluia (a Gospel song)
- Offertory
- Sanctus ("Holy, Holy")
- Agnus Dei ("Lamb of God")
- Communion.

Regardless of the form a liturgy takes, it's how we worship as a church.

The "Kyrie Eleison" (pronounced Key-ree-eh Eh-leh-ee-sohn: "Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy") is traditionally sung. Versions can differ but the essence of the prayer is intact. The "Kyrie" has been sung in different ways for thousands of years. We sing these words after we speak our confession; when we sing it, we are asking God for mercy and that God will hear and come to us in our time of need. The words are a bridge that connects us to the larger body of Christ, throughout time and place. Just as there is solace and prayer in a repeated praise chorus, there is something about using the same words used by the saints and sinners who have gone before that connects their pleading with ours. "Lord, have mercy" is a prayer that not only binds us to God, but to everyone who has offered the same words, and themselves, to the mercy of God's grace.

The next time we say or think these words, let us be mindful of what we are saying and asking. These words originate in the deepest parts of ourselves and release our guilt, uncertainty, pain, and so on, and offer it all to God. It is in these moments when we can truly understand the power that these words provide. "Lord, have mercy," is the prayer we pray when we are at a loss for words or do not know how to pray.

"Have mercy on us, Lord. Have mercy on us, Christ. Have mercy on us, Lord."

—Soli Deo Gloria,
Pastor Greg



From Your Council President

Craid Fentress

As the newly elected president of council for this year, I thought I would take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Craig Fentress, and I have been a member of Trinity for around three years. I was raised in the Lutheran Church in and around Baltimore. I attended several different Lutheran churches as my family moved.

I have worked at Hagerstown Community College for the past 20 years and have served as Director of Information

Technology for the past 15 years. As director, I manage an incredible team of 13 people and most of the technology at the college. During this time, I have been able to grow in my leadership skills and have learned a great deal, including how to interact with people. My first goal for Church Council is to set goals for the year. One of these will be to establish a new mission and vision statement to be adopted by the church. Other goals include increasing communication among

church groups and community involvement. I believe we have a wonderful church filled with some amazing people. We need to let the Hagerstown community see this in both our words and actions. To kick off this goal, Church Council is hosting a free spaghetti dinner for both our church family and the community on at 4:30 p.m. on February 8.

If you need to get ahold of me for any reason, you can call or text me at (240)675-0950.

I look forward to the positive changes that lie ahead.

Epiphany Jazz Vespers

Epiphany Jazz Vespers will be held Thursday, January 31, at 7 p.m. The service will feature a blend of elements of Evening Prayer, psalms set to jazz, and jazz standards.

A wine and cheese reception will follow the service in Memorial Hall.

Deacon Peg's Update

Deacon Peg Hardinge, OSSD

As I am called into word and service, it has been a pleasure to serve as pulpit supply to the Lutheran congregations of Beaver Creek and Keedysville and to see our fellow congregants in action. All have been welcoming, kind, and supportive, and I am so grateful for this opportunity.

Likewise, my Bible study on Wednesday evening at W-House, a.k.a. Lasting Change, continues as women progress through their program, eventually leave, and new women join the study. It is an interesting dynamic. These study members are transient; here only for four to five months, on average, then they leave. But there are two who have changed their initial plans to return to Baltimore when they are discharged. Now, they plan to return as volunteers to W-House which would enable them to keep coming to our Bible study!

Another young woman was exhibiting genuine anxiety about disconnecting from the Bible study and going back home. I am presently trying to minister to her via emailed scripture and inspirational messages. I would like to create a blog but I need a tech-savvy person to show me how. Someone who wants to be of service in the church in a way that speaks to them . . . and their talent happens to be knowing how to create a blog. Are you that person?

Jena Staley and I average three to five women in our weekly study and we are becoming fixtures there, now. However, I was open to more avenues of service and Trinity outreach. So, when I was speaking with my Emerald Point neighbor, she asked if I would start a Bible study for our community and I agreed. I had long wanted to do this. Our first study was January 9, 2019, in the Emerald Point Clubhouse at 4:30 pm. The word needs to get out and circulating and I'll know about its potential for success at a future time.

I continue to keep in touch with our college students and have added two more to our list: Lisa McCoy will finish her classes in June, for her Doctorate in Education Leadership. She will serve as an intern until December 20. We also have Maggie Stone working on her Regent's Bachelor of Arts through West Virginia University. Please pray for them as well as Laura Reed-Robinson, Patrick Anthony, Caroline and Christopher Bradford, Max Conrad, Elizabeth Dagliano, and Lisa's daughter, Ashleigh Mc Coy.

As another parish nursing-type of service, I took blood pressures at the Emerald Point Health Expo on January 12.

When I am not working at the hospital, I regularly attend the Bible study of our local Lutheran pastors on Thursdays at 11 a.m. at Haven Lutheran. This has been very useful

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Soup and Sandwich Sale



Fellowship and Parish Life Committee will hold soup and sandwich sales the next three months. In January we will take orders for pints and quarts of soup and sandwiches beginning on January 13. The items will be ready for pick up on Sunday, January 27 after both Sunday services. Also, if you would like to enjoy fellowship while eating, bowls of soup and sandwiches will be available to purchase on Sundays for you to enjoy in Fellowship Hall. The soups for January are chicken/wild rice or vegetable chowder. Sandwiches are either ham salad or egg salad.

Prices for soup:

Bowl: \$2.50

Pint: \$4.50

Quart: \$6.50

Sandwiches are \$2.50 each

Others dates for soup and sandwiches are February 24 and March 24.

Order forms will be available at both Sunday services. Any questions, please call Scarlett Michael at (301)739-0170.

Deacon Peg's Update

Continued from left column

for me, especially in regard to familiarizing myself with the leadership of our neighboring Lutheran churches. I also want to stir the *fires of passion* that Pastor Chris had burned for the "Called Out Scouts," and I will support his mission as best I can. One meaningful way to memorialize this wonderful man is to rise up and join his cause. He would love nothing more than to see us carry on the work he started. Will you join us at our next meeting?

May God bless you all in this time of joyful mourning for a life well lived by Pastor Chris, our friend, confidante, and spiritual guide.

Prayers: Conversations with God

Inge Dudda, Deacon

Dear Trinity Friends,

Prayer is amazing because this is how we can talk to God about our fears, needs, and sorrows. We can be sure He hears us because He cares about each one of us. In the church of Jesus Christ we experience the caring love of God in community. One of the ways the Trinity community cares for its members is by praying for each other. Yellow *Amazing Prayer* cards are available in fellowship hall and in the sanctuary pews and narthex for your prayer requests.

Since the Trinity congregation belongs to the nationwide community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we ask you also to participate in ELCA *Prayer Ventures*. Petitions are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social, and outreach ministries of the ELCA, and also for the needs and circumstances of our neighbors, communities and the world. You will find *Prayer Ventures* in this issue of the *Trinity Messenger*; additional copies will be in the racks in the narthex and in the church office.

—Deacon Inge Dudda



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held the evening of Tuesday, March 5. Watch your weekly Mini-Messenger or enews for more information.

Tickets will go on sale in mid-February.

Prayer Ventures for February 2019

Inge Dudda, Deacon

1 Black History Month Give thanks for our sisters and brothers of African descent, who have both suffered much and contributed much to our nation and the ongoing work of building a multicultural church and restoring and reconciling communities in the name of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

2 Give thanks for children and youth in our lives and congregations, for the gifts they bring to the body of Christ and for the leaders, teachers and members who nurture and encourage them.

3 The good news of Jesus Christ, God's love and the promise of eternal life bring us joy, but we sometimes find ourselves troubled and irritated by God's desire for us to exercise justice and peace and immerse ourselves in serving our neighbors in need – without hesitation or prejudice. Pray the Holy Spirit will work in our hearts to change our attitudes, bias and self-centeredness, setting us free to be willing, committed disciples and servants in the world.

4 Remember in prayer regions of the world embroiled in conflict and turmoil, that leaders of nations and people involved and impacted will work together for peaceful, just and lasting resolution and reconciliation; pray especially for the safety and well-being of people who have and continue to suffer loss, disrupted lives and displacement from their homes, communities or nations as a result of violence, persecution or economic collapse in these areas.

5 Remember in prayer ELCA missionaries serving in collaboration with the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church, especially in ministries of evangelism and education. Give thanks and pray for the 18 international leaders who have received ELCA educational scholarships to further develop their skills for service in the church in Japan.

6 What is love? Where is it scarce or misguided in our relationships and how we live out our faith? Ask God to deepen and mature our understanding of love and center us in the love we, as baptized children of God, are called to share generously with others.

7 Thank God for the special relationship we have with the Episcopal Church, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1999; pray for the church, its members and leaders, and that together we find strength and new resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.

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Prayer Ventures

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8 The Lord is our refuge, rock, protection, hope and trust throughout life. Give thanks and praise!

9 Give thanks for the work and impact of ELCA World Hunger. Pray we all seek ways of being working, generous partners in breaking the cycle of hunger and poverty, providing immediate and long-term assistance, and bringing hope to individuals, communities and regions of the world that suffer from hunger and poverty.

10 Consider what stirred you to follow Jesus and grow in faith. Pray for the Holy Spirit to fill you with courage and confidence to invite others to believe and follow.

11 Pray for our seven ELCA seminaries, that their faculty and staff are strengthened, inspired and sustained in their work of preparing men and women for public ministry in a multitude of contexts and communities here and around the world.

12 Give thanks for entrepreneurs of all ages in our congregations, and pray we value their energy, ideas, skills, curiosity and creative perspectives as assets that can be used for ministry and serving our neighbor.

13 Called by God to serve as a prophet, Isaiah felt ill-equipped, reluctant and that he was a poor choice for the task—until God's spirit moved him to reply, "Here I am; send me!" Pray we are open to the work God is calling us to do in our congregations, communities and the world, and, in spite of our hesitations and insecurities, are able to trust God's forgiveness and empowering love by responding, "Here I am; send me!"

14 ELCA gifts and offerings support leadership development, education and collaboration in China. We partner with the local church and organizations to respond to health, hunger and leadership development needs; 10 international leaders have received scholarships to further develop their skills for service in the church in China. Give thanks to God for what we are able to accomplish through working together.

15 Give thanks for the good news of Jesus Christ that we have received through faith, and pray we eagerly and unashamedly work to proclaim the gospel in the world with all who will listen – with friends and strangers alike.

16 Continue to pray for and support parents, families, friends and communities that have suffered the tragic loss of loved ones as a result of gun violence. Pray we are filled with empathy and care for the long and difficult healing they may go through, and that the Holy Spirit will help us be bold, wise agents and advocates of change to prevent and end the violence across our nation.

17 Jesus compels us to serve our neighbor and be a blessing to others—friends, strangers, enemies, outcasts, hungry

Continued in the next column.

and poor alike. Thank God for inviting us to join in God's work in the world and ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance and help with the service and challenges to which we have been called.

18 *Martin Luther, died 1546* Give thanks for the life, faith and teachings of Martin Luther, who worked with tenacity and courage to serve Christ while also confessing his personal struggles, questions and human weaknesses; pray we, too, are faithful in our baptismal journeys and not easily discouraged by the complexities of life, risks and our self-doubts.

19 Lift up thanks and praise for our life with God, a life filled with promise, hope and blessings that nourish us each and every day; a life and relationship that God desires for all people.

20 Pray members and leaders of our congregations are bold yet humble servants of Christ who embrace ongoing self-reflection, study of Scripture, evaluation, prayerful conversation and creative planning for the purpose of doing God's work in the world and growing the church.

21 Pray we find joy, wisdom and nourishment in following the word and paths of God in the midst of everything else competing for attention and influence in our lives.

22 Praise God for revealing to the world the risen Christ who is not bound by the consequences of human sin and death, but instead gifts us—through faith—with the truth and certainty of God's love, forgiveness and eternal life.

23 Give thanks for the energetic participation in "God's work. Our hands." Sunday each fall and for the resulting partnerships and community service that stretch throughout the year.

24 Ask God to help us listen to and wrap our lives around the straightforward teachings of Jesus that implore us to be merciful, generous, love our enemies, do good to those who hate us and not judge others – attitudes and actions that may not come easily to us.

25 Give thanks for the Deaconess Community, a Christ-centered community of women who devote their lives to proclaiming the gospel through ministries of mercy and servant leadership in diverse community and ministry contexts.

26 Remember God's love and forgiveness, and pray we are moved to demonstrate the same grace and forgiveness – as Joseph did with his brothers who sold him into slavery – with people with whom we have experienced offense, conflict or broken relationships.

27 Give thanks for the Research and Evaluation services of our church, which assist congregations and synods in exploring their communities, demographics and trends, ministry opportunities and challenges, and provide resources and insights for planning and renewing ministries.

28 What have you been worrying about lately? Share your concerns with God; trust in the Lord, be still, don't fret and go about doing good in the world.

Secret Suffering

June Habeck

He was a middle-aged Black gentleman in a leather jacket with a finely trimmed grey beard, who handed me a Food Bank card one Thursday in November. He only spoke when asked a question, and then answered in single syllables, “yes,” “no.” I greeted him as I always greet clients, to assess their state of mind, ability level, and level of honesty: “Hi! How are you doing?”

His face was creased in concern. He did not make eye contact. He did not offer the usual responses of current ailments, great fatigue, upcoming surgery, or finally finding a place to stay. His voice, barely audible, offered, “I’m okay.”

After registering his information, I began reading meat choices and he chose pork chops. I asked him to follow me as I gathered the rest of his food. He said sternly, “I only want the meat.”

So he stood in the Pantry doorway as I told Dottie Rhodes his request, and, as I faced him, I saw a package of four giant chocolate cupcakes. I hesitated in my impulse to offer them, wondering if my offering more might irritate him further.

I grabbed the cupcakes and said that he surely might enjoy a sweet treat.

For a few seconds he looked at them, then at me, as a slight smile curved his mouth. “That would be good.” With only this sight encouragement, we immediately began offering other things: peanut butter, blueberries, hamburger, pulled pork.

He liked what we offered and took them, smiling broadly, saying, “You’re very generous!”

As we handed him the bags of food, he was laughing now and said “Thank you! Have a great day, ladies!” as he walked vigorously away.

There were many references last year on Facebook about the hidden agonies people carry every day and how these surface sometimes as anger or rudeness when we encounter them. The moral is always: don’t personalize misplaced anger, as we do not know under what stresses people are functioning.

I worked with emotionally disturbed teenagers for nearly 25 years, and it became easy for me to withstand vehement verbal assaults because, having studied the adolescents’ cases, I knew of the unspeakable havoc their childhoods had been. One blonde-haired boy was nearly deaf from his drunken father’s beating him on his ears over and over when he was seven to ten years old. Another was locked in a hall closet while his parents did drugs. A young girl was molested by uncles and her father. . . . That they were not angry at me was

very clear. And since they were too young to fight back during the abuse, they fought back now at me wielding authority as their teacher.

We do not know what suffering or sorrow shadowed the fine gentleman who visited us here at TLC’s Outreach that day. We do know that by reaching out to him instead of summing him up as a “bad egg” or a “nasty one,” we lightened his load for that one moment in time. For this we are very grateful.

UPDATE ON FOOD & CLOTHING

In December the areas and rooms that could be used for Micah’s Backpack and the Clothing Bank were evaluated. Moving into the newly determined areas will commence this month, necessitating the closing of Food Pantry and Clothing Bank for one week to transfer contents.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The Food Pantry needs: can openers for the homeless, jelly, and crackers. The Clothing Bank needs: socks, blankets, and men’s shirts.

FACTS & FIGURES (Maryland Food Bank)

Maryland has the nation’s eighth highest food insecurity rate among individuals over the age of 60.

The number of Marylanders over the age of 60 is expected to grow nearly 40 percent by 2030, with the largest increases expected in Cecil, Frederick, Howard, and Somerset counties.

PONDER THIS

“He has blessed me. I’m far from where I used to be. . . I was down so low. But I never gave up. They cut my Social Security in half. Sometimes it seems like you get a foot up and the system tries to take you back down. But I’m staying positive because my God is good.” From a 35-year-old single mother with two children talking to staff at the Food Pantry.

Food Pantry and Clothing Bank Statistics

	2018	2017	Increase (%)
Food Pantry			
Families	1,640	1,457	12.6
Individuals	3,940	3,614	9.0
Clothing Bank			
Families	2327	2140	8.7

"Thank You!"

Thank you so much for your kind note and Starbucks gift card. It's so thoughtful of you and the prayer group to think of me during this time and I truly appreciate the thought! I'm currently rotating with an orthopedic group in Frederick. The staff at Frederick Memorial Hospital are very friendly, but I definitely miss the amazing staff in the operating room at Meritus! Hope the holiday season treats you well, and I look forward to seeing you in church!

Sincerely,
Ashleigh McCoy

A bright red poinsettia and the charming Karen Spessard ushered in my Christmas season followed by a delightful talk of families and growing up in Trinity. Thank you!

Alleen Carl

Senior Ministry Committee,

Thank you so much for the beautiful poinsettia you gave me for Christmas. A special thank you to Kathy King for delivering it and for the interesting conversation we had.

Carole Gibney

Dear Trinity friends,

Thank you so much for the beautiful poinsettia plant! And also thank you to Karen Spessard for delivering it.

I also want to thank those who have brought me meals and to everyone who has been praying for me. I really appreciate it! It means so much to me.

Fondly,
Lisa Norgard

Thank you for the beautiful flowers that were delivered for my end-of-December birthday. We enjoyed them very much. Thanks to Maggie Stone for delivering them.

Junior Michael

Dear Trinity Friends,

Thank you for the beautiful red poinsettia I received for Christmas. And a thank you to Inge Dudda for delivering it. It is always nice to be remembered, and I appreciate your kindness.

Janice Keefer

Thank you from the Fellowship and Parish Life Committee. We would like to thank everyone who ordered RADA Cutlery during our recent fundraiser. Our sales amounted to \$623, of which we received 40 percent. We made \$249.20, which will go toward the 150th celebration. Look for information about soup and sandwich sales in the new year.



BIRTHDAYS

* 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
Brianna Scheer
- 26 Diona Minnich
- 28 Akira Williams

ANNIVERSARIES

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

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Chris and Hannah (Hardinge) Remavege on the birth of their daughter Joanna Ruth on December 8. This is a month of celebration for them, as Chris was officially sworn in as an attorney in Maryland on December 12, and their daughter, Eliza Leone, celebrates her second birthday on December 26! If you would like to send them a note, please do! Their address is 315 Whitfield Drive, Catonsville, Maryland 21228.

Trinity Lutheran Church
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Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

Phone: (301)733-2878 www.tlchag.org

Sunday Worship at 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Sunday School for All Ages at 9:55 a.m.
Church Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

MAKING DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST

Food Pantry and Clothing Bank: (301)733-5651
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 11 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

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

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

