



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Give, Worship, Prayer, Invite, Serve, Study, Encourage

# *Trinity Messenger*

## *April 2022*

### **Field Notes: Rev. C. Richards**

There's a line from the ancient Chinese book, the Tao-te-Ching that I often think of as I consider how to live with my neighbor. In it, Lao-tse, the author (via Stephen Mitchell the translator) describes a master of the way of the Tao as being "fluid as melting ice." The section goes like this:

*"The ancient masters were profound and subtle. Their wisdom unfathomable. There is no way to describe it; All we can do is describe their appearance. They were as careful as someone crossing an iced-over stream. Alert as a Warrior in enemy territory. Courteous as a guest. Fluid as melting ice. Shapable as a block of wood. Receptive as a valley."*

I often imagine the senses involved in this description of wisdom, grace, and humility; especially the description, "Fluid as melting ice". Melting ice is such a fascinating material. Slick with water, impossible to hold, yet solid and strong, all the while filling the space around it gradually as it flexes under pressure. You don't see it move, but when you look back, it has done just that.

The Tao-te-Ching is an ancient book of philosophy, describing a way to live with gentleness, goodness, and honesty. It is not a religious text, but rather a practical treatise on living a life of harmony with others. As a Christian, I have often found its wisdom to be complementary to our goal of living in harmony with others while also keeping a close relationship with Jesus who is our way and our truth and our life. When I am thinking of gracious ways to respond to a brother or sister in Christ, Stephen Mitchell's translation of the Tao often comes to mind in concert with sections of Matthew 18 and Romans.

This time of year, that image – fluid as melting ice takes on a concrete meaning. Everything continues to melt – especially after a warm week last week as I write this. Water seeps in here and there, slick surfaces and mud show up, as do all the things buried in the snow over the season. In our minds, as everything is released from the snow and slowly dries out, we have an image of what spring will be and how our yards and homes should be when the transition is over.

I wonder – is Faith life like the changing of the season from winter to summer? We have an image of what a good life may be – we follow Jesus who encourages us while also saving us for this summertime life. We see how it can be, and we endeavor to put things in order so that when summer arrives, everything is ready. But to do so, we have an image of the core, of the solid center of ourselves and of our world when summer arrives, or else how would we know where to put the chairs or when to finally plant the flowers?

I wonder if part of our life of Faith is to receive the image Jesus gives us good life with one another and God, and make it central in our hearts. The Spirit does this work as well. Then as we make our way, knowing what is real and solid, we are able to move carefully in the world, strong yet adaptable, focused yet free. Fluid as melting ice. Christ's peace as spring arrives, and careful on the ice!

- PrCR

# How You Can Help!

*Here are some things you can do to support the church and your neighbors this month!*

1. **Call people.** Use your Trinity Directory – call your church family members and check in. **Make a Plan to call 3 families or individuals** (especially those who may be isolated) If everyone does this from the church – all will receive messages of care and hope. You could pray on the phone with one another.
2. **Give Financially:** You can support local charities like the food shelf, Luther Crest, the Red Cross, etc. Please remember to either mail or drop off contributions to the church office or give online. You can download the Vanco mobile app to do the online giving. Check it out at <https://www.vancopayments.com/egiving/church-app>.
3. **Pray:** Please keep up a prayer list of those you care for. Daily prayer is a powerful way to develop compassion, empathy, and spiritual discipline. There is no better time than now to begin praying.

## TRINITY LUTHERAN WOMEN

\*\* Some 2022 booklets still need to be picked up. They're sitting on the table in the Narthex.

\*\* Personal care kits will be assembled on April 24th.

\*\* The Glacial Ridge Spring Gathering will be April 25th in Benson. Please let Patty Anderson or Sandy Anderson know if interested in going.

### Do Days

Do Days will be  
April 25th & 26th

Quilt making continues  
as an ongoing project.

# + + + WORSHIP + + +

SERVICES ARE IN-PERSON & LIVE WEBCAST

*We are still looking for volunteers for tech/AV and readers. Please contact the church office if you're interested.*

*1st Sundays of each month are Food Shelf Offering & 4th Sundays are Luther Crest Offering*

DATE	TIME	READER	MUSICIAN	TECH/AV	COMM. PREP.	ACOLYTE	USHER/GREETER
April 3rd	9:30am	J. Solvie	W. Richards	J. Knorr	D. Estenson	O. Huebner	D. & L. Dahl
April 6th	6:00pm	N/A		A. Erickson	N/A	N/A	N/A
April 10th- Palm Sunday	9:30am	C. Carlsen	K. Zenner	R. & B. Barsness	N/A	W. Richards	L. & L. Banta
April 14th- Maunday Thursday	6:00pm	H. Rutter	K. Zenner	S. & K. Banta	N/A	N/A	N/A
April 17th- Easter Sunday	7:00am	H. Black	K. Zenner	T. & W. Richards	R. Schiefelbein	D. Black	B. & K. Goulet
April 24th	9:30am	A. Barsness	TBD	A. Erickson	N/A	T. Richards	S. & K. Banta

**Special Music:** We would like to welcome anyone interested in sharing God's message through special music in our service to please let the office know: [tlccyruskayla@gmail.com](mailto:tlccyruskayla@gmail.com).

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## BIRTHDAYS

*NOTE: We are working on updating our online membership system, please let the church office know if any birthdays are incorrect or missing.*

- |                             |                        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 04/01 William Mickelson     | 04/17 Staci Holzheimer |
| 04/02 Thelma Hansen         | 04/18 Connie Solvie    |
| 04/03 Sheila (Finke) Giles  | 04/19 Jill Owen        |
| 04/03 Wesley Richards       | 04/19 Brianne Went     |
| 04/04 Laurence Kannegiesser | 04/21 Jenna Owen       |
| 04/04 Nicole Baker          | 04/22 Jim Wink         |
| 04/04 Mark Barsness         | 04/23 Heidi Logeais    |
| 04/05 Scott Mithun          | 04/23 Truett Richards  |
| 04/06 Jaelyn Owen           | 04/24 Peter Brandt     |
| 04/06 Isaiah Dalen          | 04/25 Sheryle Dahl     |
| 04/09 Mike Brandt           | 04/27 Kathy Banta      |
| 04/10 Janice Mithun         | 04/27 Janae Owen       |
| 04/10 Evan Anderson         | 04/28 Aiden Davis      |
| 04/11 Harper Banta          | 04/29 Donald Thompson  |
| 04/14 Allan Rutter          |                        |
| 04/14 Jerry Carlsen         |                        |

# CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Sunday, March 20, 2022

Present: Lonnie Anderson, Katie Erickson, Barb Barsness, Pastor Chris Richards & Kayla Schmidgall

Absent: Holly Rutter, Kathy Banta, Jerry Carlsen & Dena Carbert

There were not enough people for a quorum, so no motions were made and nothing was voted upon.

Pastor Chris gave his report.

Old Business:

Council discussed helping to donate to the Snack Pack program at MAES but currently enough snacks for the rest of this year, so the donation will be discussed again in Fall 2022.

New Business:

1. Council agreed that it was good to get lawn mowing bids from Bob Schneider
2. Agreed to add local benefits & Ukrainian relief aids

Committee Reports:

Property – Still getting a community together to talk about some building updates.

- Working on installing more microphones in order to better hear on the new streaming system

Education – Nothing new to report.

Worship – Nothing new to report.

Outreach Nothing new to report.

Next meeting: Holly is going to send out an email to set up next month's meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katie Erickson, Council Secretary

# OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please contact Kayla ([tlccyruskayla@gmail.com](mailto:tlccyruskayla@gmail.com) or 320-795-2569) if you'd like to add any other announcements or information to the upcoming monthly newsletter.

\*\* Looking for volunteers to serve coffee & goodies during fellowship hour after worship each Sunday.

\*\* A Bible study of the book of Luke will be the first & third Tuesdays of each month at Common Cup in Morris from 5pm-6pm.

\*\* Pederson Funeral Home's Gatherings Sunday Luncheons for Widows & Widowers will be on Sunday, April 3rd at Noon at Old #1 Southside in Morris.

\*\* April 3rd & April 10th will have Sunday School hour after the church services. The kids will be separated into two sections: PreK-1st Grade and 2nd-5th Grade.

\*\* Easter flower orders are to be paid & due to the church office by 10am on Friday, April 8th. Order form is included.

\*\* There a free-will offering & silent auction benefit on Friday, April 9th for Raelynn Gahm (daughter of Dylan & Brittany Gahm and granddaughter of Bill & Teresa Gahm, all of Morris). Raelynn was diagnosed with Aicardi Goutières Syndrome (AGS), which is a rare terminal genetic disease with no cure; she is wheelchair bound, non-verbal & G-tube fed.

## \*\* Element: Confirmation schedule

\* NO Element during Lent – please attend your church's Lenten services. Meetings will resume on Wednesday, April 20th.

\* Sun, April 3rd – Mission Trip informational meeting, 2pm-3pm at First Lutheran

\* Wed, April 20th; 6pm-7:30pm at First Lutheran

\* Wed, April 27th; 6pm-7:30pm at First Lutheran

\* Wed, May 4th – Last Element meeting – more details to come

## \*\* Fusion Sr. High schedule

\* Sun, April 3rd – Mission Trip informational meeting, 2pm-3pm at First Lutheran

\* Sun, April 3rd; 6:30pm-8pm at First Lutheran

\* Sun, April 10th; 6:30pm-8pm at First Lutheran

\* Sun, April 17th – No Fusion – HAPPY EASTER!

\* Sun, April 24th; 6:30pm-8pm at First Lutheran

## \*\* Financial Update

Income: \$35,529.53

Expenses: \$39,195.21

- \$ 3,665.68

Today

< > April 2022



Month ▾



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27 ● 9:30am Worship ● 6pm Element - small gr ● 6:30pm Sr. High Fusion	28	29	30 ● 9am Weekly Devotional ● 6pm Element - Lent ser ● 6pm Lenten service	31	Apr 1	2
3 ● 9:30am Worship ● 6:30pm Sr. High Fusion	4	5 ● 5pm Book & Bible Studi	6 ● 9am Weekly Devotional ● 6pm Element - Lent ser ● 6pm Lenten service	7	8 ● 10am Easter flower ord	9
10 ● 9:30am Palm Sunday ● 6:30pm Sr. High Fusion	11	12	13 ● 9am Weekly Devotional	14 ● 6pm Maunday Thursda	15	16
17 <b>Easter Sunday</b> ● 7am Worship ● 6:30pm No Sr. High Fus	18 <b>Easter Monday</b> <b>Tax Day</b>	19 ● 5pm Book & Bible Studi	20 ● 9am Weekly Devotional ● 6pm Element - Tough Q	21	22	23
24 ● 9:30am Worship ● 6:30pm Sr. High Fusion	25	26	27 ● 9am Weekly Devotional ● 6pm Element - Willy do	28	29	30

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