



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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

Trinity Messenger

April 2023

Field Notes: Rev. C. Richards

Confession and forgiveness, law and Gospel, death and resurrection- the most powerful themes of Christian life and faith are on display this month as we celebrate Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Easter, and by the end of May, Pentecost.

The way of following Jesus, while filled with freedom and grace, can also be a narrow path. If we stray too far into the grace of the gospel, and there is no law, we are offering love without the context of God's truth and expectation. In the same way, if we are so busy pointing out the law, there is no room for grace. When applied to the daily situations of our lives, its often simpler to keep our eyes ahead on Jesus than it is to navigate on our own between the ditches on either side. But in our rapidly changing world, there is a powerful temptation to name what is RIGHT and what is WRONG, to focus on the answers to the hard questions of our time, instead of the authority and grace of our savior. We need help with following Jesus, but we often look for answers instead.

This is precisely why we have a church. Not because the church is good at guiding the way. Clearly this is not the case and repeatedly, when the church has tried to take the place of Jesus in guiding believers, there have been sad moments in our history. Rather, the church is exactly the place where a community of faithful can discern a way forward together with Jesus present in the Holy Spirit, guiding the way. Do you see the difference? When a Church operates as the leader, institutional power, money, rules, doctrine, and many of the worst instincts of humanity come to the forefront. But when individuals guided by Jesus discern the way, the Spirit gets rolling!

“Wherever two or three are gathered in my name, I will be with you” – Jesus tells his disciples. This is abundantly true! When we come together and build trust and community, we are able, in Jesus' name, to process life together. Confession happens between friends, forgiveness as well.

The community processes the needs of their place and time in the context of the gospel, the world, and the Spirit.

When a church operates as the authority on faith and morality in the world, it naturally slips into the role of judge or gatekeeper for God. Often in this sort of situation, those that believe and act according to that church's way are 'in' and others are 'out'. Churches in this frame often educate extensively on what is permissible or restricted. Further down that path there is typically a belief that right living, right believing, and hard effort lead to better outcomes for the most 'faithful'. Unfortunately, the world rarely reflects this expectation. Biblically this is also rarely the case. Instead, the stranger is blessed, the outcast is redeemed, the lost is found and the sinner is forgiven, all of which contradict the try harder, believe right and succeed ideology.

On the other hand, when a Church operates as safe space for worshippers and those looking to discern what God is up to in their lives, it can function as a servant to the faithful, removing stumbling blocks between believers and Jesus. Conversation and relationship become priorities. Walking together through thick and thin, believers discover the rugged necessity of confession and forgiveness, grace acted out in real relationships with real people. It is messier and less productive. It is also precisely how Jesus operated his ministry and instructed his disciples to do the same.

What do you expect from your congregation? I know that we sometimes wish that we could be spiritual authorities or have all the answers about what is right and wrong in a changing world. But we aren't called to be judges. That is God's work, for which only God is qualified. How might Trinity be a place that supports you in engaging with other faithful folks in ways that help you discover what God is up to in our lives? How might we be shepherds and caretakers of God's people. How might we be a community that walks together on the long journey of life? Are there needs you see that aren't met in the community? Could the church support efforts to meet those needs? Do you or your friends have gifts that could be offered for others?

As we celebrate the unquenchable life of Jesus, the indomitable power of his love, I hope this Easter reminds you that Jesus has already conquered sin, death, and the devil. How might we step out in faith, reaching out to others, even as the world continues to change? How might we share the good news and welcome others to the foot of the cross that couldn't contain our savior?

Christ's peace to you and your families!
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

** Do Days can always use sheets that are in good condition with no stains or tears to use for making quilts.

** Pope County Families in Need is looking for used (good condition!) clothing. Drop off donations at Trinity & Barb W. will deliver.

Do Days

Quilt making continues
as an ongoing project.

+ + + WORSHIP + + +

SERVICES ARE IN-PERSON & STREAMED LIVE ONLINE

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
Sun., April 2nd – Palm Sunday	9:30am	H. Rutter, K. Hassler & L. Banta	K. Zenner	J. Knorr		H. Banta	T. & D. Olson
Thurs., April 5th- Maundy Thursday	6:00pm		K. Zenner	T. & W. Richards	K. Schmidgall		N/A
Sun., April 9th – Easter Sunday	7:00am	L. Anderson	W. Richards	R. Huebner	R. Kannegiesser	L. Anderson	B. & K. Kremin
Sun, April 16th	9:30am	J. Maanum	K. Zenner	A. Erickson		D. Black	K. & B. Goulet
Sun., April 23rd	9:30am	A. Barsness	W. Richards	M. Barsness	D. Hanse	N. Kolden	M. & J. Huntley
Sun, April 30th	9:30am	R/B Huebner		S. & K. Banta		W. Mithun	E. & S. Anderson

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: tlccyruskavla@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
04/02 Thelma Hansen
04/03 Sheila Giles
04/03 Wesley Richards
04/04 Larry Kannegiesser
04/04 Nicole Bakker
04/04 Mark Barsness
04/06 Jaelyn Owen
04/06 Isaiah Dalen
04/09 Mike Brandt
04/10 Evan Anderson
04/11 Harper Banta
04/14 Allan Rutter
04/14 Jerry Carlsen
04/17 Staci Holzheimer

04/19 Jill Owen
04/19 Brianne Wentz
04/21 Jenna Owen
04/22 Jim Wink
04/23 Heidi Logeais
04/23 Truett Richards
04/24 Peter Brandt
04/25 Sheryle Dahl
04/27 Kathy Banta
04/27 Janae Owen
04/28 Aiden Davis
04/29 Don Thompson

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Minutes; March 19, 2023

Present: Holly Rutter, Lonnie Anderson, Barb Barsness, Mark Barsness, Pastor Chris Richards & Kayla Schmidgall

Absent: Kathy Banta, Dena Carbert & Katie Erickson

Holly called meeting to order.

Lonnie made a motion & Barb seconded to approve agenda.

Mark made a motion & Lonnie seconded to approve minutes from last meeting.

Barb made a motion & Mark seconded to approve the treasurer's report.

Pastor Chris gave a short report.

Old Business:

None to discuss.

New Business:

1. The council is looking into setting up a scholarship for high school/college students (who have "ties" to Trinity)

A. Students will have to apply for the scholarship.

Committee Reports:

Property – Continue to monitor the water seeping into the basement.

Education – Nothing new to report.

Worship – Going to start working on some things for when Pr. Chris is gone on sabbatical.

Outreach – Nothing new to report.

Next meeting: Sunday, April 16th after worship

Respectfully submitted,

Kayla Schmidgall (substituting for Katie Erickson, Council Secretary)

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

* We're still looking for volunteers to work with AV and for Readers. Please let the church office know if you'd be interested in helping.

** ELEMENT SCHEDULE (held at First Lutheran unless noted)

- * Wednesday, 4/5; 6pm-7:30pm
- * Wednesday, 4/12; 6pm-7:30pm
- * Wednesday, 4/19; 6pm-7:30pm
- * Wednesday, 4/26; 6pm-7:30pm

* SR. HIGH FUSION SCHEDULE (held at First Lutheran unless noted)

- * Sunday, 4/2; 6:30pm-8pm
- * Sunday, 4/9 – No Fusion – Easter Sunday
- * Sunday, 4/16; 6:30pm-8pm
- * Sunday, 4/23; 6:30pm-8pm
- * Sunday, 4/30; 6:30pm-8pm

* The SW MN Synod Spring Gathering – Lutheran Men in Mission – Saturday, April 15th, at 8:30am at Gloria Dei Church in Redwood Falls. Please see the sign on the bulletin in Narthex for more information & to register by Monday, April 10th.

* Glacial Ridge Conference Spring Gathering for Women will be Tuesday, April 18th at Fron Lutheran Church in Starbuck. Fee is \$10; registration starts at 4pm & a light supper will be at 4:30pm. Program will be presented by Vicar Sara Larson & Interim Pastor Yesenia Morales (topic will be Loving Your Neighbor). Please let Kayla in church office know if you'll be attending & to be provided with a check to cover the registration. Offering is 50% to SW MN Synod & 50% to Minnewaska and Glacial Hills Backpack Attack Programs.

* The UMM has The Bread 'N Bowls event on April 24th. Please contact the church office by the end of February if you'd like to donate a dessert or bread. See letter on board in Narthex or contact Sarah Eckel at UMM (589-6457) for more information.

* Financial Update

Income:	\$54,138.26
Expenses:	<u>\$49,002.69</u>
	\$ 5,135.57



APRIL 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 9:30a – Worship – Palm Sunday 10:30a – Sunday School 6:30p – Fusion	3	4 6p – Element - First Communion class	5 6p – Maundy Thursday service	6 6p – Maundy Thursday service	7	8
9 7:00a – Easter morning worship 8:00a – Easter breakfast	10 Pastor Chris Out of Office	11 6p - Element	12 6p - Element	13 3p -- Pr. Chris @ West Wind	14	15 8:30a- SW MN Synod Spring Gathering – Lutheran Men in Mission
16 9:30a – Worship- 10:30a – Sunday School 6:30p – Fusion	17	18 4p- Glacial Ridge Conference Women's Spring Gathering @ Fron Lutheran, Starbuck	19 6p - Element	20	21	22
23 9:30a – Worship 10:30a – Sunday School 6:30p – Fusion	24 5:30p- UMM Bread & Bowls	25	26 6p - Element	27	28	29 10a – Bridal shower for Lexi Carbert
30 9:30a – Worship 10:30a – Sunday School 6:30p – Fusion						

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