



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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

Trinity Messenger

January 2022

Field Notes: Rev. C. Richards

And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.” - Luke: 1: 46-55

Mary rejoices in God's what? In God's great salvation for all people? Nope. Mary rejoices in the forgiveness that Jesus will bring or in the gift of God's Holy Spirit to all people? Nope. What is it that Mary rejoices before Jesus is even born? It is something more surprising than any of those. Mary rejoices in God's great reversal of the world's definition of success! Mary Rejoices that the normal lowly folk are brought high and the powerful upper crust is brought low. The “has looked with favor” in our translation is lightly implied, but in the Greek it is past tense. God looked with favor on Mary, a lowly nobody out in the sticks, and now all generations will call her blessed. When Mary sings her song, she is convinced that it has been accomplished.

Truly – this is something to rejoice over right now; today! Mr. Musk, Mr. Bezos, Mr. Zuckerberg, Mr. Gates, Mr. Page, and Mr. Buffett – watch out. Even if you are the richest and probably far more powerful than the average human, God’s up to something! There are nearly 2,800 Billionaires in the world today, up from only 600 a decade ago. And these 2,800 people, mainly men, have more influence the 99.999999937% of the rest of us. That’s 99% with SEVEN more 9’s!

We know, even in the generally wealthy nation of America, what it is to simply be one in the crowd feeling powerless. Our quality of life is mostly alright around here. We can stay warm, eat mostly alright, and get access to care and the things we need. But in Stevens County and Pope County (of our combined 20,000 people) 1,980 live below the federal poverty line. Basically 1 in 10 folks don’t have enough income to get by and slowly pull ahead. Most of those below that line are Women age 50-65, followed by young women age 18-24, and then men age 30-35. *(Data from the National Census Bureau).*

If 1 in 10 people we see each day in our community are having to compromise health, food quality, and safety to get by, and if another 3-5% are very-high-income earners, that means a combined 95-97% of the people in our community do not have significant wealth or power with which to have a major level of agency within the wider world and within their local lives. In other words, most of us work hard, do our best, and do okay. Some of us are struggling, and a few are very well off and have more influence on the structure of local and global life than the rest of us.

In Mary’s time – this was also the case. And her first reaction to God’s blessing for God’s people through her, was to sing out loud – “God is throwing a huge changeup! It’s reversal time, almost everyone is now going to be okay – to thrive, to be honored and loved and provided for! PRAISE GOD!” What an amazing reaction! She immediately sees how her story will be the story of God’s love for ALL of God’s people, regardless of their worldly status or even despite their status. God has provided for all – and Mary is the proof in the pudding.

Do you ever feel powerless? Do you ever wonder if anything you do makes a difference? Mary did too. But God proved that her life mattered. God proved that all our lives matter, even if in this life we are just making do. God’s grace and peace are a gift we can all receive as we move from Christmas into Epiphany.

Christ’s Peace - 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

Thank You

I want to thank Barb Barsness, Linda Dahl, Joyce Ettesvold, Lois Ness, Sandee Tollefson, and Barb Wentz for their help in making 88 baby jackets/capes for the baby care kits that we assemble for Lutheran World Relief. We met three different days and had it was fun! This project was also funded by Thrivent.

Thanks again, Karen Edlund

The new ladies booklet will be coming out in February at the Organizational meeting. If anyone wants any changes, let us know by January 9th. Otherwise we will assume you are comfortable in your circle and your job responsibilities.

- Linda and Sandy

Do Days

Do Days will be
January 24th & 25th

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
Sun, Jan. 2nd	9:30 AM	K. Hassler	<i>TBD</i>	D. Black & Boys	K. Schmidgall	P. Richards
Sun, Jan. 9th	9:30 AM	J. Rutter	W. Richards	A. Erickson & Boys		S. Logeais
Sun, Jan. 16th	9:30 AM	C. Carlsen	<i>TBD</i>	J. Knorr		B. Black
Sun, Jan. 23rd	9:30 AM	A. Barsness	K. Zenner	S. & K. Banta	V. Brandt	T. Richards
Sun, Jan. 30th	9:30 AM	L. Banta	K. Zenner	R. & B. Barsness		D. Black

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.

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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.

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|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 01/01 Judy Birr | 01/16 Jaxtyn Gades |
| 01/02 Laura Mithun | 01/17 Jacqueline Boots |
| 01/04 Tim Kannegiesser | 01/18 Holly Rutter |
| 01/05 Eric Joos | 01/18 Logan Anderson |
| 01/06 Richard Mithun | 01/19 Warren Osterman |
| 01/06 Chad Larson | 01/21 Patricia Anderson |
| 01/07 Rollyn Strand | 01/21 Eric Rau |
| 01/07 Hayden Banta | 01/22 Nancy Barsness |
| 01/09 Briella Berg | 01/22 Sydney Logeais |
| 01/10 Myla Huntley | 01/23 David Lilienthal |
| 01/12 Betty Sayre | 01/25 Denise Olson |
| 01/12 Rachel Smith | 01/25 Izan Erickson |
| 01/13 Zoey Schmidgall | 01/26 Bruce Solvie |
| 01/14 Matthew Huntley | 01/31 Mark Estenson |
| 01/14 Nathan Pieske | |
| 01/14 Ellen Clusiau | |
| 01/14 Jada Lilienthal | |

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Sunday, December 19, 2021, after church.

The council met on Sunday Dec 19th to finalize the draft 2022 budget.

Barb Barsness made a motion to approve the budget, Jerry Carlsen seconded and all other members approved.

The draft 2022 budget passed and will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting.

Council set the date of the annual meeting for Sunday January 23, 2022 at 10:45am. The meeting will take place after services in the sanctuary. It will be held in person and via Zoom. A Zoom link will be posted a few weeks prior to the meeting.

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.

** Church annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 23rd, at 10:45am after church.

** Element: Confirmation schedule

- * Wed, 1/05 – 6pm @ First Lutheran
- * Wed, 1/12 – 6pm @ First Lutheran
- * Wed, 1/19 – 6pm @ First Lutheran
- * Wed, 1/26 – 6pm @ First Lutheran

Element Winter Retreat – Feb. 11th-12th at Luther Crest-sign up on Fusion website (www.fusion-ministry.com)

** Fusion Sr. High schedule

- * Sun, 1/ 9 – 6:30pm @ First Lutheran
- * Sun, 1/16 – 6:30pm @ First Lutheran
- * Sun, 1/23 – 6:30pm @ First Lutheran
- * Sun, 1/30 – 6:30pm @ First Lutheran

** Financial Update

Income:	\$251,799.95
Expenses:	<u>\$202,328.46</u>
	\$49,471.49

Today

< > January 2022



Month ▾



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1
Pastor Chris out of office						
2 more	1 more	1 more	3 more	1 more	3 more	New Year's Day
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Worship 6:30pm Sr. High Fusion 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2pm Service at West C 4:30pm Book & Bible St 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Weekly Devotional 6pm Element - Why are 			Element: Adult Leadership
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Worship 6:30pm Sr. High Fusion 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30pm Book & Bible St 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Weekly Devotional 6pm Element - If there's 			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Worship 6:30pm Sr. High Fusion 	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30pm Book & Bible St 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Weekly Devotional 2 more			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Worship 10:45am Annual Meeti 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30pm Book & Bible St 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Weekly Devotional 6pm Element - Question 			
30	31	Feb 1	2	3	4	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Worship 6:30pm Sr. High Fusion 		First Day of Black History!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Weekly Devotional 6pm Element - Can It Be 		Element: Jr. High - Winter Retreat	

**Trinity Lutheran Church
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