



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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

Trinity Messenger

July 2022

Field Notes: Rev. C. Richards

Whether you know it or not – you are probably grieving right now. Surveys, polls, researchers, everyone who makes it their business to know how we are doing collectively is saying the same thing. After COVID-19, as we move forward in a VERY unsure and unstable time amidst ongoing chaotic stressors – the prevailing emotional state most report under the daily ins and outs is heavy, ongoing, persistent grief.

Cheerful, right? Not to be a downer to all of you – but that's also part of the Christian life – we call things what they are. After heartache, frustration, conflict, loss, and now ongoing volatility and stress – most of you are living with a high level of grief, often unnamed, but not unfelt or unnoticed!

Maybe it shows up in your relationships, are they more tense than usual? Do you find it easier to retreat into family or isolation rather than socialize? Maybe it shows up in grabbing all the activities you and your family had before COVID. Do all the things! Get to the lake, get to the baseball game, get to the party and the swimming and dinner and everything! Maybe it shows up in your work life. You do as much as you can and then you stop and do very little until you feel able to put up with all of it again. Maybe it is simply a different flavor to your isolation or avoidance?

One of the ways we heal from grief is finding purpose. Deciding on a goal that sets our course and direction helps us by supplying meaning in accomplishing goals that lead us closer to the charted destination. This can be a powerful way of addressing the pain of loss.

Another way many find comfort in grief is in doing precisely the opposite – taking space and time to reflect and heal. This might be sinking into slower activities like gardening, exercise, reading, silence, journaling, art, music, or spending time with loved ones without a schedule or an agenda.

Both are constructive ways of taking action to heal in times of mourning. Biblically, we see Jesus use both techniques in times of pain. He often retreats for prayer and rest amidst difficulty in all four Gospels. Later on in his ministry, Jesus “Sets his face towards Jerusalem”. He resolves to make his way into the center of his mission, knowing the costs. This resolution lends purpose to his actions.

The Psalms reflect this dichotomy as well. “God is my strong tower – my refuge.”¹ We trust that God is a safe rest and retreat in the midst of the pain of this life. In contrast, “God is my strength and my shield², an ever present help in times of trouble”³ – in other words, when I act for God’s mission in the world I know God attends and acts with me.

Whatever it is you are up to – however you are making sense of this time of healing – take time to reflect. Remember to pray and listen. Listen to what God is up to in your heart and in your life. Grieving is good – natural, but Christians take time to be with God so that our actions are on purpose, and our lives line up with God’s will for us and the world. Maybe it is time to pick things back up and get moving with purpose. Maybe it is time to set them down and sink into a slower healing. What is God showing you?

Whatever you are hearing from God, who loves you, I send you peace and love from Jesus – the one who has acted on our behalf at every step or the winding way.

Christ’s Peace – PrCR

¹Psalms 61:3

²Psalms 28

³Psalms 46

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

Do Days will be July 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
July 3rd	9:30am	H. Black	J. Odello	S. & K. Banta	R. Larson	B. Black	B. & K. Kremin
July 10th – Cyrus South Cemetery	9:30am	K. Hassler	Worship Team	T. & W. Richards	N/A	N/A	P. & K. Moser
July 17th	9:30am	J. Maanum	Amy VanZee	A. Erickson & Boys	N/A	N. Kolden	R. & B. Barsness
July 24th	9:30am	C. Carlsen	<i>TBD</i>	J. Knorr	K. Edlund	O. Huebner	T. & R. Kannegiesser
July 31st		J. Solvie	K. Zenner	M. Barsness	N/A	D. Black	J. Knorr

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.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 07/01 Paul Barsness | 07/17 Dennis Solvie |
| 07/02 Thale Ludwick | 07/17 Marlyas Solvie |
| 07/04 Gary Payne | 07/18 Carter Brandt |
| 07/05 Dennis Lindor | 07/21 Lorna Driggins |
| 07/05 Savannah Holzheimer | 07/21 Andrew Banta |
| 07/08 Dan Thompson | 07/21 Sophy Steffens |
| 07/08 Braeden Amborn | 07/22 Joyce Ettesvold |
| 07/11 Bryson Black | 07/23 Patricia Carbert |
| 07/12 Keith Asmus | 07/24 Rose Osterman |
| 07/12 Tristan Larson | 07/24 LuAnn Gades |
| 07/12 Sophia Banta | 07/25 Corey Carbert |
| 07/13 Kristine Hansen | 07/26 Jon Hesse |
| 07/13 Ashley Wink | 07/26 Kendra (Jergenson) Goulet |
| 07/13 Brett Anderson | 07/27 Lois Ness |
| 07/14 DeAnne Hawkinson | 07/27 Kathleen Payne |
| 07/15 Jamie Koob | 07/27 Kaylee (Brandt) Helberg |
| 07/16 Karen Edlund | 07/30 Katie Erickson |
| 07/16 Michael Bruland | 07/31 Carol Jenniges |

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting Minutes; Sunday, June 12, 2022

Present: Holly Rutter, Lonnie Anderson, Barb Barsness, Kathy Banta, Jerry Carlsen, Dena Carbert, Pastor Chris Richards & Kayla Schmidgall

Absent: Katie Erickson

Holly called meeting to order.

Dena made a motion & Kathy seconded to approve the agenda.

Kathy made a motion & Dena seconded to approve minutes from last meeting.

Lonnie made a motion & Jerry seconded to approve the treasurer's report.

Pastor Chris gave his report.

Old Business:

1. Approved of going forward with getting contractors for some renovation work.

New Business:

1. Getting 4 new windows that were damage in the storm a few weeks ago.
2. Still working on putting together a cemetery clean-up day.

Committee Reports:

Property – Finalized bids for some church building updates.

Education –Trinity will be participating in VBS this mid-July with area churches in Morris

Worship – Possibly use some Trust funds to continue to support community & church outreach

Outreach Nothing new to report.

Next meeting: Sunday, July 10th after worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Kayla Schmidgall, substituting in 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.

**** Message from your Church Council -**

“Blessings have been abundant this past year! Trinity received some monetary gifts totaling \$100,000. Some of the money was to be used for infrastructure projects and some was undesignated. For several months, the council has been discussing projects and ideas on how to be the best stewards of these gifts. We decided to use a portion of this money for maintenance and updating the sanctuary and narthex, as new carpet has been an agenda item for some time now. The wood paneling will remain on the bottom portion of the sanctuary, with the top portion and ceiling getting painted. The choir privacy rail/half-wall and pews will be removed which will allow for more usable space for chairs, the choir, musicians, and equipment. The council will be continuing discussions on what to do with the remaining funds.

We anticipate this project will take place in August during which time the pews will be removed and services will be held outdoors or in the basement. Volunteers will be needed to move the hymnals, pews, equipment, etc. before and after the project. Stay tuned for those details!”

**** We'll be having 2 more outdoor worship services this summer – Sunday, July 10th at Cyrus South Cemetery; and Sunday, August 7th at Scandia West.**

**** Reminder:** Pastor Chris will be out of the office on Thursdays (using up some earned time off) and Fridays during the summer.

**** Cyrus Seniors will be in Trinity church basement on Tuesday, July 5th at 2pm.**

**** Pederson Funeral Home's Gatherings Sunday Luncheons for Widows & Widowers will be on Sunday, July 10th, at Noon at Old #1 Southside in Morris.**

**** Pastor Chris will be gone on the Fusion youth trip to the Blue Ridge Mountains from July 17th-July 23rd.**

**** Kayla will be on maternity leave from middle of July to beginning of September. Pastor Chris & a couple volunteers will be helping cover some weekdays.**

**** Wednesday Night Alive will be held at Old #1 Southside. A meal will be available from 6pm - 6:40pm, music will be from 6:40pm-7pm, and a speaker will begin at 7pm.**

July 6th – Speaker: Bobby Loukinen

July 13th – Speaker: Reggie Dabbs

July 20th – Speaker Richard Baker

July 27th – Speaker: Terrance Talley

**** Vacation Bible School will be July 18th-July 21st for Kindergarten (completed) through 6th grade, from 8:45am to 3pm. It will be held at Faith Lutheran Church in Morris. Please register online at <https://www.luthercrest.org/camp1.html> and click on the "Off-Site Day Camp Registration" button in the banner. Once logged in, click "Add New Program" under registration and enter this code: FMDay22.**

**** Financial Update**

Income: \$110,252.91

Expenses: \$86,794.66

\$ 23,458.25

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26 ● 9:30am Worship	27 ● 9:30am Worship	28 ● 5pm Book & Bible Studi	29 ● 9am Weekly Devotional ● 6pm Wednesday Night	30	Jul 1	2
3	4 ● 9:30am Worship Office Closed Independence Day	5 ● 2pm Cyrus Seniors-Tri	6 ● 9am Weekly Devotional ● 6pm Wednesday Night	7	8	9
10 ● 9:30am Outdoor Worsh	11	12	13 ● 9am Weekly Devotional ● 6pm Wednesday Night	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Pastor Chris gone on youth mission trip						
2 more	2 more	2 more	4 more	2 more	2 more	1 more
24	25 Kayla out on maternity leave ● 9:30am Worship Do Days	26	27	28	29	30
31 ● 9:30am Worship	Aug 1 Kayla out on maternity lea K - maternity leave all mo	2 ● 2pm Cyrus Seniors-Tri	3 ● 9am Weekly Devotional	4	5	6

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