



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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

Trinity Messenger

March 2022

Field Notes: Rev. C. Richards

I was out in a snowstorm this morning. I clicked into my cross-country skis, fell a few times going down the hill towards the river, and then did the hard work of breaking a trail. Much of the snow down by the river had a hard crust that only sometimes held me up. Each time I broke through one leg would fall a foot or more. With pines on either side, juniper and buckthorn, I kept working. For a mile with snow falling thick, I broke through and slid, and broke through and slid again; stopping a few times to catch my breath as the occasional rabbit hurried for cover. After completing the loop, I stopped and looked back.

The trail behind me showed all my effort snaking away into the wood. Step after step, pole holes deep on either side, snow was already beginning to fill the ridges. As I began moving again, the trail allowed me to glide and actually ski. The second loop took one-third the time that the first mile had. It was peaceful, quiet, and I was able to look up and enjoy the snowy trees. Tomorrow I will probably ski three or more laps, but two was more than enough with the trail-breaking. I'll need to get out there tomorrow as it supposed to snow again, and I'd like to keep the trail open so that I can keep enjoying smooth skiing for these last weeks of winter.

Lent is upon us. Ash Wednesday will have come and gone by the time you read this. Repentance is the point of Lent – and in brief, repentance is a Hebrew concept that comes to us translated through time via the Hebrew Testament “Tshuva”, and the New Testament Greek “Metanoia.” In Hebrew the word has the literal meaning of “return” and in Greek we have “to know again”. I note this because neither word is defined as contrition, feeling bad or sorry about one’s sin. While we may certainly feel guilt or frustration with ourselves on account of sin, it is not required or even included in the roots of the word itself. Instead, biblically, repentance is more

akin re-breaking a trail or starting a new one in the midst of the ruins of the old familiar trail of sin we have lived.

Breaking a trail is hard work. Starting a new habit (or breaking an old habit) is challenging. It takes dogged persistence, one slow step after another. Repentance is the same way. The step-by-step slog through deep snow leads us to an awareness of our own limits, our own failures. Step-by-step we turn again, see again, know again. We are indeed human – fallen, but beautiful and worthy of God’s love. We are making our way to Jesus, and even though we fail, Jesus accomplishes forgiveness for us on the cross.

As I glide on the trail tomorrow, reclaiming it again from fresh snow, I will be thankful for each slow and painful step I made today. Falls, twists, trips, and all – each gliding step will be a gift of previous work. In the same way – our lives in Christ honor his gift to us, forgiveness, love, redemption, salvation – all achieved on the cross, all given freely, which we remember as we repent this Lent.

Christ’s Peace to you – 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

The new booklet will be available at the March 6th meeting which will be held after church. There are some changes in the funeral policies and service groups, so those will be explained at that time. We encourage everyone to attend!

Do Days

Do Days will be
March 28th & 29th

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
Wed, March 2nd	6:00 PM	N/A	K. Zenner	D. Black	R. Malland	
Sun, March 6th	9:30 AM	H. Rutter	J. Odello & W. Richards	R. & B. Barsness	A. Joos	N. Kolden
Wed, March 9th	6:00 PM	N/A	K. Zenner	A. Erickson		
Sun, March 13th	9:30 AM	D. Olson	K. Zenner	S. & Kathy Banta		B. Black
Wed, March 16th	6:00 PM	N/A	K. Zenner	D. Black		
Sun, March 20th	9:30 AM	H. Black	K. Zenner	A. Erickson		A. Joos
Wed, March 23rd	6:00 PM	N/A	K. Zenner	S. & Kathy Banta		
Sun, March 27th	9:30 AM	K. Banta	TBD	R. & B. Barsness	S. Tollefson	L. Anderson
Wed, March 30th	6:00 PM	N/A	K. Zenner	T. & W. Richards		

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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|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 03/01 Roger Pieske | 03/15 Rebecca Dalen |
| 03/05 Pam Hoddinott | 03/16 Ryan Cole |
| 03/07 Sarah Lilienthal | 03/17 Kyle Schiefelbein |
| 03/07 Claire Bruland | 03/18 Rachel Banta |
| 03/07 Madison Erdahl | |
| 03/08 Avis Brandt | |
| 03/08 Dena Carbert | |
| 03/10 Pr. Chris Richards | |
| 03/11 Ken Mix | |
| 03/12 Shannon Fernholz | |
| 03/12 Renae Olsen | |
| 03/13 Jeremy Grossman | |
| 03/13 Michaela Fassler | |
| 03/14 Neil Rutter | |
| 03/15 Charles Bright | |
| 03/15 Lori Berg | |

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Sunday, February 13, 2022

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

A motion was made by Lonnie and seconded by Kathy to approve the Agenda. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Kathy and seconded by Dena to accept the Secretary's Report as seen in the Messenger. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Dena and seconded by Lonnie to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed.

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 approved the opportunity for Pastor Chris to apply for the Gifts of Grace grant program via our Synod.
2. Council discussed how to proceed with some large donations that were given in 2021.
3. Putting together a list of volunteers to help out Pastor Chris with nursing home & home-bound visits.
4. Added a list of emergency phone numbers to be posted at the elevator- only 911 was needed to be listed.
5. Pastor Chris talked about upgrading the streaming service - Kathy made a motion to approve it, Dena seconded & motion passed.
6. A motion was made by Kathy & seconded by Barb to use \$500 from Mission Fest to help support Rebecca Clark on her mission trip to Atlanta Front Line Response.

Committee Reports:

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

Education – Sunday school will start for 4 Sundays (after church) during Lent/before Easter. Ideas have begun to take shape for starting Sunday school up regularly next Fall.

Worship – Nothing new to report.

Outreach Nothing new to report.

Next meeting: Sunday, March 20th after church.

Respectfully submitted,
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.

**** Reminder:** Pick up any bowls/containers in church kitchen.

****** A Bible study of the book of Luke will be the first & third Tuesdays of each month starting on March 1st. It will be held at Common Cup in Morris from 5pm-6pm.

****** Pederson Funeral Home's Gatherings Sunday Luncheons for Widows and Widowers will be on Sunday, March 6th at Noon at Common Cup in Morris.

****** March 20th to April 10th – there will be a short Sunday School hour after the church services. The kids will be separated into two sections: PreK-1st Grade and 2nd-5th Grade. More details about Sunday School will follow.

**** Element: Confirmation schedule**

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

**** Fusion Sr. High schedule**

- * Sun, March 6th – 6:30pm-8pm at First Lutheran
- * Fri, March 11th – TobyMac concert – Fargo Dome (times TBA) – Contact Heather Black for more details & tickets
- * Sun, March 13th – 6:30pm-8pm at First Lutheran
- * Sun, March 20th – 6:30pm-8pm at First Lutheran
- * Sun, March 27th – 6:30pm-8pm at First Lutheran

**** Financial Update**

Income: \$23,459.53
Expenses: \$20,553.52
\$ 2,906.01

Today



March 2022



Month



K

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27 ● 9:30am Worship ● 6:30pm Sr. High Fusion	28	Mar 1 ● 4:30pm Book & Bible St	2 ● 9am Weekly Devotional ● 6pm No Element - Ash ● 6pm Ash Wednesday s	3	4 FUSION-TobyMac concert	5
6 ● 9:30am Worship	7	8 ● 4:30pm Book & Bible St	9 ● 9am Weekly Devotional ● 6pm Element - Lent ser ● 6pm Lenten service	10	11	12
13 Daylight Saving Time star ● 9:30am Worship ● 6:30pm Sr. High Fusion	14	15 ● 4:30pm Book & Bible St	16 ● 9am Weekly Devotional ● 6pm Element - Lent ser ● 6pm Lenten service	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19
20 ● 9:30am Worship ● 6:30pm Sr. High Fusion	21	22 ● 2pm Service at West C ● 4:30pm Book & Bible St	23 ● 9am Weekly Devotional ● 6pm Element - Lent ser ● 6pm Lenten service	24	25	26
27 ● 9:30am Worship ● 6pm Element - small gr ● 6:30pm Sr. High Fusion	28	29 ● 4:30pm Book & Bible St	30 ● 9am Weekly Devotional ● 6pm Element - Lent ser ● 6pm Lenten service	31	Apr 1	2

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