



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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

Trinity Messenger

May 2022

Field Notes: Rev. C. Richards

So here's a "church-y" phrase I'm sure you've heard before: "We are all united as one in the body of Christ." This is a line that has its roots in the letters of Paul, and is used often in various forms in worship services, songs, etc. But it is also something that you've probably heard a bunch and haven't really thought about what it means, or if you have thought about it, were vaguely confused or thought it a bit idealistic at best.

Something that happens to humans over time when things are repeated is habituation or conditioning. When we see or hear something a lot, we get used to it. The first time you were in the room when a table saw got turned on, it was probably scary and louder than anything has a right to be. But, after awhile, you got used it, or learned to plug your ears.

Church language is like that too – you hear it so many times, it can become background noise. And by the way, the reason we try to use certain language and certain phrases during worship services usually is because the words are lifted straight from biblical text. It is meant to be a protection against "making it up" or "going away from the source". This way, when we worship over long periods of time, things stay generally close to the original intents and we don't shift incrementally away from Jesus or into our own personal preferences, etc. But we get used to it. Then we stop hearing it. Then we stop understanding what we are doing, or why. And that is a problem. So this month I thought I'd tell a story that helps illustrate the phrase above.

The other day I was serving communion during our Maundy Thursday service – that's the Thursday before Easter when we remember the Last Supper and Jesus' new command, "love others as I have loved you".

As you were all coming up for communion, I remembered little bits of the week previous. Thoughts floated through my mind as I served each of you. Oh, I'm so glad that it wasn't cancer for her. Then someone else come up. It's a good thing they ran into X and encouraged them. Then another. I wonder if they know how important X was to the person who mentioned it to me? And as folks went through the line, God was showing me golden lines of connection between person after person after person. It was a little overwhelming.

Not only was I seeing the connections, but I was also seeing that many of you didn't realize how your actions had helped, encouraged, and lifted up other folks who were also there that night. Four or five different situations came up in my mind encompassing 20 or so folks, just in the last couple of weeks. And as I was cleaning things up and getting ready for the conclusion of the service, it hit me as I looked up at the 80 or so gathered for the service, that really, I could think of connections between everyone there that night.

I looked down about to continue the service and stopped, I saw the bread and wine – and it hit me even more powerfully, these folks are all united into one family through this communion, but more specifically, through the person of Jesus, who has called them to love one another and the world. Who is physically present in each one of them now through the sacrament, who has also called each of them by name in baptism, and now who also blesses and sends them out to a world in need.

This was not metaphor or analogy. This was a concrete reality that I had witnessed. I looked up a little flabbergasted, and I said something along the lines of how beautiful it was to see you all receive communion, aware of all that you do for one another and how much God does through all of you. But I didn't do it justice.

Luckily, there is church language that does – You are all united as one in the body of Christ. What a thing. I encourage you reflect on some of the “church language” you hear in worship and other places -have you experienced any of those things? What was it like? How might you share that story?

Christ's Peace – Pastor Chris

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

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

Do Days

Do Days will be
May 23rd & 24th

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
May 1st	9:30am	K. Hassler	J. Odello & W. Richards	J. Knorr	C. Carlsen	TBD	S. & K. Banta
May 8th	9:30am	J. Rutter	TBD	S. & K. Banta	N/A	W. Mithun	Huebner family
May 15th	9:30am	K. Schmidgall	K. Banta	S. & K. Banta	N/A	L. Anderson	T. & J. Jergenson
May 22nd	9:30am	J. Knorr	K. Zenner	T. & W. Richards	R. Schiefelbein	N. Kolden	TBD
May 29th	9:30am	D. Dahl	Worship Team	A. Erickson	N/A	O. Huebner	K. & L. Retzlaff

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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|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 05/03 Katie Moser | 05/24 Jeff Anderson |
| 05/05 Renee Kannegiesser | 05/24 Amy Boyle |
| 05/08 Josephine Walcott | 05/25 Deacon Hills |
| 05/08 Jeannie Maanum | 05/26 Robin Thompson |
| 05/10 Linda Dahl | 05/30 Clarence Hansen |
| 05/10 Corey Hansen | 05/30 LaVonne Onstad |
| 05/11 Tom Ludwick | 05/30 Ella Aaberg |
| 05/11 Marcella Hansen | 05/31 Dennis Pieske |
| 05/11 Ardith Yungerberg | 05/31 Lucas Banta |
| 05/12 Maddie Finke | |
| 05/13 Larry Osterman | |
| 05/14 Elliot Richards | |
| 05/15 Joyce Hansen | |
| 05/15 Julie Rutter | |
| 05/17 Jennifer Erlandson | |
| 05/18 Preston Moser | |
| 05/21 Justin Malland | |
| 05/22 Janice Pieske | |

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Minutes; April 3, 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.

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

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

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

Pastor Chris gave his report.

Old Business:

1. Pastor Chris spoke about the Divine Buzz app & how we could work with a rural Lutheran church in northern India (learned about this church from Pastor Julius over in Hancock) – we can possibly make monetary donation & keep in contact as mission idea. Approved to send \$1500 from Mission Fest to support this missionary.
2. Summer 2022 mission trip to Africa (a few folks from Trinity will go) has been moved to Summer of 2023.

New Business:

1. Potluck meal after worship on Sunday, May 22nd. Council will be organizing it.

Committee Reports:

Property – Getting bids together in order to do some church building updates.

Education – Sunday school will continue after Easter & throughout May.

Worship – Nothing new to report.

Outreach – Nothing new to report.

Next meeting: Sunday, May 15th after worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Kayla Schmidgall (sub-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.

** Trinity will be sponsoring the KMRS worship hour on Sunday, May 15th. If you'd like to make the \$65 donation in honor or memory of someone, please let Kayla know.

** Looking for volunteers to serve coffee & goodies during fellowship hour after worship each Sunday. Please sign-up sheet located in basement or call the church office.

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

** Element: Confirmation schedule

- * Wed, May 4th – Last Element of the school year – more details to come
- * Wed, May 11th – Mission Trip Training Meeting; 6:30pm-8pm, at First Lutheran Church

** Fusion Sr. High schedule

- * Sun, May 1st – 6:30pm-8pm at First Lutheran Church
- * Sun, May 8th – Mother's Day! No Fusion – Go celebrate your mom or a mother figure in your life! 😊
- * Wed, May 11th – Mission Trip Training Meeting; 6:30pm-8pm, at First Lutheran Church
- * Sun, May 15th – Escape Room in Alexandria – contact Heather for more information

** Financial Update

Income: \$47,886.53
Expenses: \$60,441.28
- \$12,554.75

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
May 1 ● 9:30am Worship ● 6:30pm Sr. High Fusion First Day of Asian Pacific	2	● 5pm Book & Bible Studi. ● 9am Weekly Devotional ● 6pm Element - service	4 ● 9am Weekly Devotional ● 6pm Element - End of s	5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7
8 Mother's Day ● 9:30am Worship	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 ● 9:30am Worship ● 6:30pm Sr. High Fusion	16	● 5pm Book & Bible Studi. ● 9am Weekly Devotional ● 10am Holly Ridge & M ● 6pm Element: Jr. High I	18	19	20	21
22 ● 9:30am Worship ● 6:30pm Sr. High Fusion	23	24	25 ● 9am Weekly Devotional ● 6pm Element: Jr. High I	26	27	28
29 ● 9:30am Worship ● 6:30pm Sr. High Fusion	30 Memorial Day	31	Jun 1 First Day of LGBTQ+ Pride ● 9am Weekly Devotional ● 6pm Element: Jr. High I	2	3	4

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