



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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

Trinity Messenger

May 2023

Field Notes: Rev. C. Richards

Then he [Jesus] said, "How can I picture God's kingdom for you? What kind of story can I use? It's like an acorn that a man plants in his front yard. It grows into a huge oak tree with thick branches, and eagles build nests in it." He tried again. "How can I picture God's kingdom? It's like yeast that a woman works into enough dough for three loaves of bread—and waits while the dough rises."

Luke 13 MSG Paraphrase

I've been praying a lot lately. Maybe you've heard, we had a small robbery at Trinity the night before Easter, and then a week later, four people were shot in a domestic violence arrest; two died. One was the shooter, the other an officer. The tragedy left a crater in our confidence and melted our sense of security. It destroyed a family and forever rewrote the future of many individuals.

The shooting happened on Saturday night. Reporters came to find us on Sunday as church let out. They were very polite. They asked me if it was alright if they came in. I remember telling parishioners to exit via the side doors if they'd rather avoid them, saying I would run interference and talk with them if they felt uncomfortable. Some of you stayed for fellowship, some departed, some gave interviews. I've been talking with all of you since then, daily, listening, praying, considering.

Last Sunday, we talked about Jesus and the fire he lit within the hearts of the grieving disciples on their way to Emmaus the next day after he rose. I've had my heart re-lit a few times this week. Maybe you have too. Maybe you've helped speak a word, rekindle a heart, or maybe it has been a hollow time.

When I pray lately, I pray that God's kingdom would continue to bloom where it has been planted. Trinity, and our family scattered here and there, is a vibrant fellowship. When life is hard, we often are able to talk about it. When things are good, we often remember to thank God. When pain and fear assail us, we usually come together. This is more than most can expect, and I thank God for you all.

I've seen you come together this time as well. Many conversations, phone calls, visits, all the things you have been doing. God has acted to comfort and heal through many of your good works.

All that being said. This world is hard. There's no way around it. The Gospel never claims otherwise. If anything, the true Gospel points this fact out, and amplifies just how tough it really is to be a follower of Jesus. No riches, no accomplishment, no prestige, no discipline, no effort of ours can save.

It is quite impossible to reach God under our own power. We cannot remain loving, soft-hearted, forgiving, or faithful in the face of the tragedies of this life. It is not possible. No act of will, no good intentions, no extra effort can accomplish what Jesus accomplished for us on the cross. If it could be done, Jesus would not have needed to be our Savior.

But we DO have a Savior. One that loves us. One that planted the seeds and has tended them diligently over the generations as Trinity and its predecessors have flourished and shared the Gospel for more than 150 years in Pope and Stevens counties.

Tragedy will occur. Our hearts break for the families and individuals hurt by the events of this month. But Jesus is good. Jesus saves. This has not changed. And as we hurt, as we minister to others who are hurt, the Holy Spirit continues to breathe life into us. The life of Jesus that lives in us burns brightly still. And all those who are lost have and will be found.

Ultimately, of course, Jesus has already triumphed. But, as we live with those who are hurting now, I encourage you, enter once again into prayer. Kneel one more time before bed. Take communion and say the Lord's Prayer one more time. Jesus saves and is yet saving. His kingdom grows and grows. He will bring you what you need to heal, and to help others.

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

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

Do Days

**May 22nd &
23rd**

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
Sunday, May 7th	9:30am	K. Hassler	D. Hanse	T. & W. Richards	S. Tollefson	E. Anderson	H. & B. Wente
Sunday, May 14th	6:00pm	L. Banta	K. Zenner	R. & B. Barsness		W. Richards	P. & K. Moser
Sunday, May 21st	7:00am	K. Banta	<i>TBD</i>	A. Erickson & Boys		B. Black	R. & B. Huebner
Sunday, May 28th	9:30am	A. Rutter	<i>TBD</i>	J. Knorr	L. Asmus	S. Estrada	K. & L. Asmus

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.

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

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Minutes; April 16, 2023

Present: Holly Rutter, Barb Barsness, Mark Barsness, Kathy Banta, Katie Erickson & Pastor Chris Richards

Absent: Kayla Schmidgall, Lonnie Anderson & Dena Carbert

Holly called the meeting to order.

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

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

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

Pastor Chris gave his report.

Old Business

1. Holly is working with Pastor Chris on a timeline for his upcoming sabbatical.
2. College/life scholarship fund – Council is drafting a procedure for applications & Thrivent interest funds will be used.

New Business

1. Council will now be accepting lawn mowing bids for Summer 2023.
2. Youth savings account was located and will be merged into general fund (will still keep youth line items in budget).
3. Saturday, June 24th – Micah Tyler (Christian musician) will have concert in Morris to raise funds for Feed My Starving Children. More details to come.

Committee Reports:

Property – Missing some EXIT signs & fire extinguishers need to be tested.

Education – Year-end review & possibly send out books?

Worship – Kits for LWR will be put together next Sunday.

Outreach – Nothing new to report.

Next meeting: Sunday, May 21st after worship

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.

* 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.

** Cyrus Seniors will begin meeting again on Tuesday, May 2nd at 2pm in Trinity basement.

** Help celebrate Marcella Hansen's (100th!) birthday on Sunday, May 7th at Trinity. Lunch & an afternoon of reminiscing will follow worship!

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

* Wed, May 3rd; 6pm-7:00pm – Element's Last Supper Experience (rescheduled from April)

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

* Sun, May 7th; 6:30pm-8pm

* Wed, May 10th – 6:30pm-8pm – Mission Trip meeting with parents/caregivers & students going on trip

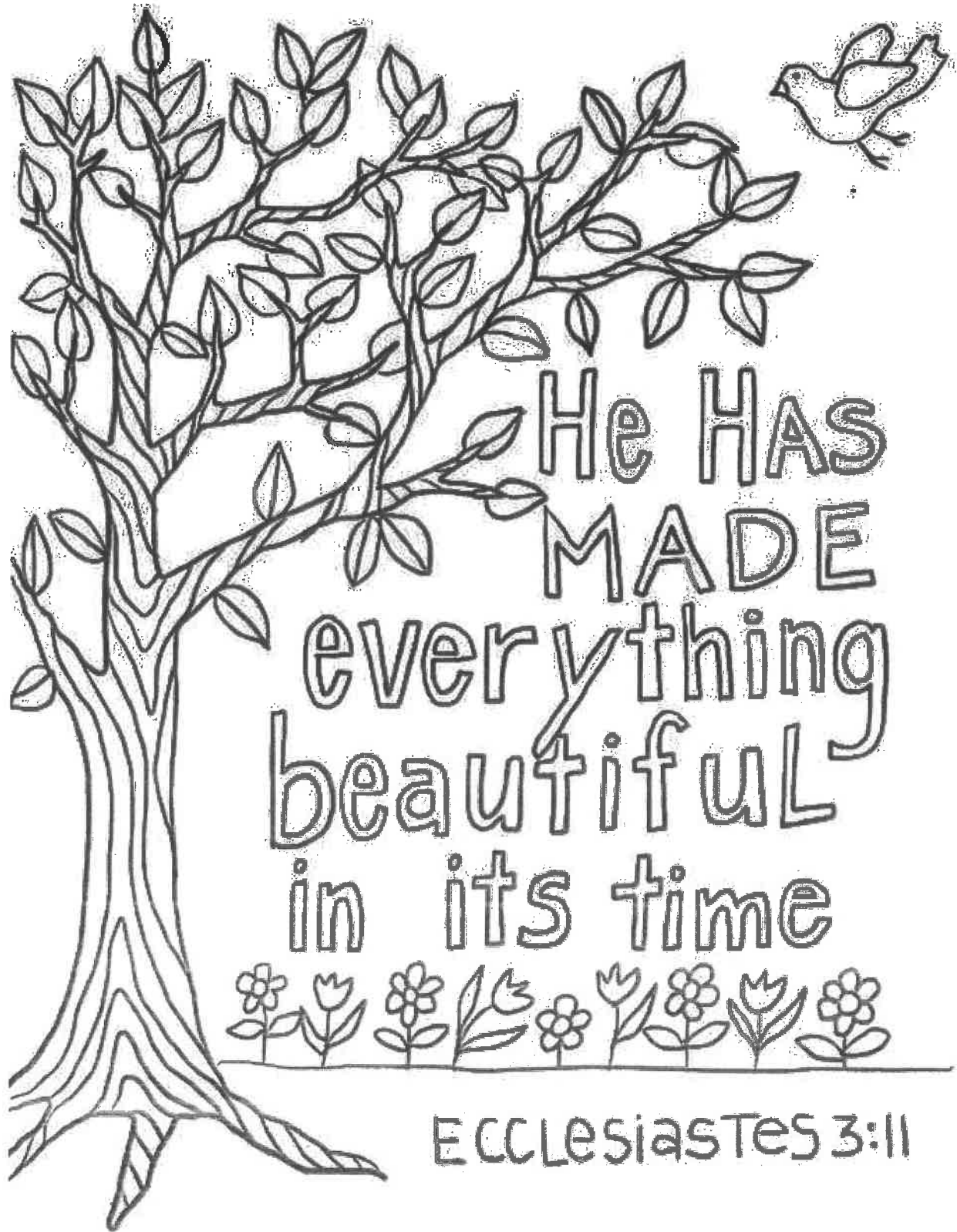
** Graduation Open House Trinity is invited to come celebrate Pierce Richards's high school graduation on Saturday, May 27th from 9-11am, at 20759 457th Ave, Morris, MN. He is registered to begin classes at the University of MN Morris next fall. Come & congratulate him on his graduation!

** Financial Update

Income: \$62,566.34

Expenses: \$74,105.14

- \$11,538.80



MAY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 6p - Element's Last Supper Experience	4	5	6
7 9:30a - Worship 10:30a - Sunday School	8	9	10	11 2p- Pr. Chris at West Wind	12	13
14 9:30a - Worship 10:30a - Sunday School Happy Mother's Day!	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 9:30a - Worship 10:30a - Sunday School	22	23	24	25	26	27 9a-11a - Graduation Open house for Pierce Richards
28 9:30a - Worship 10:30a - Sunday School	29 Church office closed for Memorial Day	30	31			

**Trinity Lutheran Church
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**May
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