



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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

# *Trinity Messenger*

## *September 2023*

### **Field Notes: Rev. C. Richards**

There is a social and political battle being waged each day for our attention and for our anger. The sources of this battle are no different than they have been for most of human history. We believe there is not enough to go around. Some are getting more, others have less. Worse, there is a system in place that we don't like to talk about where certain groups of people are treated as better, others as worse.

People can be split up into all sorts of groups- by gender or creed, race and culture, politic or philosophy. But in our society, there is a massive inequality in wealth and in access to care between the wealthiest top 1% of the top 1%, and the rest of us. Because of this, it is profitable for some to tell a story of division and outrage. The story usually goes something like, "This group of people is benefiting unfairly. They are taking from you what is yours. It is unfair. Stand up and fight". Sometimes it includes, "This group has been on bottom, they are trying to move up, don't let them take your position." Both are usually interwoven.

Now, please don't mistake me – there are plenty of real injustices in our society and in the world as a whole. But the story we are told about hating our neighbor, despising those who might take our wellbeing, remaining in the proper class system- it is an old story, and it is a lie. Worse, it is a destructive lie that divides us from God and from those God who commands us to love.

It is depressingly ironic that this story is told to us by folks who benefit from our anger and division. Politicians need donations. Outrage generates donations. Solving problems in government is far less profitable. Media corporations want attention. Stories of unity aren't nearly as attention grabbing as outrage, and therefore, are less profitable.

Jesus was accustomed to this story as well. It was told in his time. His nation was occupied by a deadly army who mostly cared about keeping order and extracting taxes. The Romans cared little for the daily wellbeing of their Israelite citizens, based on our historical knowledge of their practice. But it was easier for everyone if things were orderly.

Common people surrounding Jesus were looking for him to be a Messiah who would conquer the Romans, violently put them in their place, bring down the judgment of God, and rule proudly, bringing their nation back to its 'former glory.' Note that theme of 'former glory'. It was present in the Civil War, WWI, WWII, and remains a loud cry in nationalist regimes around the world to this day.

Just before his crucifixion, when Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "My kingdom is not from this world." (Jn. 18:36) The kingdom of God, Jesus' kingdom, is like a mustard seed. Small. But when planted, it grows and makes a home for all the creatures. It is like a trespasser who finds a treasure in a field, sells all he owns, and buys the field. It is like a Sower who scatters seed, and it grows, no matter where it falls.

When we live a life in which God is our center (instead of profit or influence), where Jesus is our leader, where the Spirit is our inspiration, we live in relationship with God and with our neighbor. We are not looking for our neighbor to fail. We do not believe that our neighbor is stealing our well-being by living their life. Instead, we look for the good in our neighbor, we develop a community that is forgiving and honest, even when we disagree.

When we live a life centered on God, we aren't afraid of losing anything, because all we have is a gift. We share generously instead of hoarding; we serve freely instead of guilt. When we hear a tale of the pain of our neighbor, we do not blame them for their pain; we consider how we might aid them.

Jesus told his disciples that by his death, he would glorify God, and God would glorify him in return. After he returned, he explained to them that they should go out and tell everyone about this good news. That God was for them. That God loved them. They were to go out and baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Teaching others to live as Jesus taught them. Finally, he reminded them. "I am with you, even unto the end of the age." (Matt. 28:18-20)

Jesus was clear. He was not the Messiah sent to conquer the Romans. He was the Messiah sent to save humanity. All of it. Jesus tells us a different story. There is a kingdom where we are welcome. God provides. We can partner up with God's providence. We will live forever, therefore how we treat one another is critical to our relationship with God. But we are often so busy looking for someone to blame that we miss the opportunity to find someone to bless.

My challenge for you this Fall, as the season speeds up and some things like time or money may seem more scarce than before, is to bless your neighbor. Keep centered on God. Follow the savior who gave and forgave. Don't fall into the trap of division for profit, anger for attention. Keep your eyes on the one who made you, loves you, saved you, and walks with you every day - Jesus Christ.

*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/giving/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.

\*\* School kit assembly will be on Rally Sunday (Sunday, Sept. 10th), so be on the lookout for school supplies!

Do Days

**September 25th  
& 26th**

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
Sun, Sept 3rd	9:30am	J. Solvie		R. & O. Huebner	K. Banta	S. Estrada	N. Baker & R. Wente
Sun, Sept 10th - Rally Sunday	9:30am	L. Banta		S. & K. Banta	No Communion	O. Huebner	N/A
Sun, Sept. 17th - Sunday School kick-off	9:30am	K. Schmidgall		R. & B. Barsness	No Communion	N. Kolden	J. & S. Anderson
Sun, Sept 24th	9:30am	J. Maanum		T. & W. Richards	K. Schmidgall	E. Anderson	T. & T. Erdman

**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: [tlccvruskavla@gmail.com](mailto:tlccvruskavla@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.*

- |                         |                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 09/03 Jere Ettesvold    | 09/19 Nancy Flom            |
| 09/03 Jere Solvie       | 09/20 Joyce Skogstad        |
| 09/03 Ruth Schiefelbein | 09/21 Tera Erdman           |
| 09/03 Brooke Pugsley    | 09/21 Wyatt Mithun          |
| 09/03 Samuel Estrada    | 09/22 Rose Larson           |
| 09/06 Desamus Estrada   | 09/23 Gene Olson            |
| 09/07 Robert Jergenson  | 09/25 Marjorie Alfson       |
| 09/10 Ashley Malland    | 09/26 Amber Retzlaff        |
| 09/11 Reed Kannegiesser | 09/28 Alexis (Carbert) Joos |
| 09/13 Kellie Ashby      | 09/28 Asher Hills           |
| 09/14 Lonnie Anderson   | 09/29 Adam Erickson         |
| 09/15 Callan Erickson   | 09/30 Wade Maanum           |
| 09/15 Lily Berg         |                             |
| 09/16 Melloy Flaten     |                             |
| 09/16 Cheryl Larson     |                             |
| 09/16 Brooke Banta      |                             |
| 09/17 Kenny Veum        |                             |



# Back to school prayer

Lord please protect all the children  
as they approach another school year.  
Help them learn and achieve  
and conquer without fear.  
Give them the protection they need  
each and every day.  
Teach them Lord and guide the way.  
Give them favor and courage.  
Help them to never feel discouraged.  
Give them patience, understanding and  
motivation for success.  
Help them all Lord and may  
they all be blessed.

In Jesus name,

Amen

By: Laura Porras



# CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Minutes; August 15, 2023

Present: Lonnie Anderson, Katie Erickson, Kathy Banta, Barb Barsness, Pastor Chris Richards & Kayla Schmidgall

Absent: Holly Rutter, Mark Barsness & Dena Carbert

Lonnie called the meeting to order.

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

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

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

Pastor Chris gave his report.

## Old Business

No old business.

## New Business

1. Kathy motioned & Barb seconded to approve with ordering a new Christ candle. Motion passed.
2. Organ will be moved back into the sanctuary.
3. Unused furniture (in back upper Sunday school rooms) will be set out for anyone who'd like (after 2 weeks, items will be donated).
4. Discussed putting a digital display sign out from of church (to replace current one on side of church building).
5. Discussed a 3 day seminar/retreat for Pastor Chris in October - Kathy motioned & Lonnie seconded to approve that TLC cover costs for this continuing education opportunity.
- 6.

## Committee Reports:

Property – Need to fix/replace 7 or 8 roof vent pipe flashings

Education – Rally Sunday on Sept. 10th & Sunday school classes will officially start the 17th

Worship – Nothing to report

Outreach – Nothing to report

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 12th at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katie Erickson, Council Secretary



# OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please contact Kayla ([tlccyruskayla@gmail.com](mailto:tlccyruskayla@gmail.com) or 320-795-2569) if you'd like to add any other announcements or information to the upcoming monthly newsletter.*

\*\* Kayla will be out of the office from August 28th-September 5th. - Office days during the school year will be Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays from 9am-2pm (days misprinted in Aug. messenger).

\*\* Mon, Labor Day, Sept 4 - Fall Day of Service: Engage in one of three short-term service projects with UMM faculty, staff, students & other community members! Meet at 1:30pm in Oyate Hall. Walk-ins are welcome but to get a specific spot, register at: [z.umn.edu/FDOS2023](http://z.umn.edu/FDOS2023). This year's projects are: SWELL Clean Up; US Fish & Wildlife Butterfly Tracking; and Someplace Safe Thrift Store donation sorting.

\*\* Cyrus Seniors will meet on Tuesday, Sept.5th at 2pm in Trinity basement.

\*\* There will be an open house Baby Shower for Carly (Maanum)& Drake Meyer on Saturday, September 9th, from 9am to 11am at the Old #1 Southside. Carly is registered at Target & Amazon.

\*\* RALLY SUNDAY! We're kicking off the Sunday School season on Sunday, Sept. 10th with Blessing of Backpacks during the worship hour. Kids going into Kindergarten, 2nd grade & 6th grade will be getting new bibles.

\* Kids will also be helping assemble LWR school kits during the Sunday school hour.

## \*\* Element Schedule

\* Wednesday, Sept 13th -- 6pm; Parent Information Meeting - First Lutheran. One parent & the youth involved must attend!

\* Wednesday, Sept 20th -- 6-7:30pm -Student Kickoff @ First Lutheran

\* Wednesday, Sept 27th -- 6-7:30pm @ First Lutheran

## \*\* Sr. High Fusion Schedule

\* Wednesday, day, Sept 20th -- 7-8:30pm Kickoff @ First Lutheran

\* Wednesday, Sept 27th -- 7-8:30pm @ First Lutheran

\*\* There will be an open house Couples Shower for Keni & Anthony at Trinity following worship on Sunday, September 17th from 10:30am-11:30am. They're doing a kitchen remodel & would feel any contributions would be helpful! 😊

## \*\* Financial Update

Income: \$145,811.08

Expenses: \$149,986.17

- \$ 4,157.09




# SEPTEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 9:30a- Worship - Communion	4 Labor Day - Office Closed	5 Kayla back in office	6	7	8	9
10 9:30a- Worship Rally Sunday!	11	12 5:30p -Council mtg	13 6p- Element parent/ student mtg-First Lutheran	14	15	16
17 9:30a- Worship Sunday School class kick-off!	18	19	20 6p- Element kickoff- First Lutheran 7p- Sr. Fusion - First Lutheran	21	22	23
24 9:30a- Worship- Communion	25	26	27 6p- Element-First Lutheran 7p- Sr. Fusion - First Lutheran	28	29	30

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
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**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**Cyrus, Minnesota 56323**  
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**September**  
**2023**