

Spring 2016

Trinity Lutheran Newsletter



Everything in Its Proper Place

PLUS School Updates, Ministry News,
Holy Week Schedule, and more!

Everything in Its Proper Place

“But Mary stood outside the tomb crying...” — John 20:11

WE LIKE THINGS TO BE in their proper place. Suit coats to the left of the closet. Shirts off to the right. Dress socks in the top drawer. White socks in the second drawer. Cereal goes on the bottom shelf. Soup and veggies on the top shelf. Even if you don't mind things a little messy, odds are your most important things still have their place.

We get frantic fast when things aren't in their proper place. Our car keys grow a five-year-old's feet and are found among the Barbies. An iPhone disappears beneath a car seat. If that is the way we feel about missing keys and phones, how do you think Mary felt when she realized that Jesus' body was not in its proper place? The body of Mary's master was missing! If Friday's crucifixion wasn't ugly enough, did insult now need to be added to injury? Mary and her companions couldn't even provide Jesus with a decent funeral. What a mess!

In reality, there was only ONE thing that was out of place that first Easter morning: Mary's doubt! Hadn't Jesus promised his resurrection—specifically on the third day? Several times! Yet Mary was so overcome with grief, so preoccupied with a proper burial, so concerned with her uncertain future, that she had simply lost sight of Jesus' promise. *She replaced Jesus' resurrection promise with all of her messy human doubts and concerns.*

Jesus put things back in their proper place with a single word. “Mary!” Her doubts came crashing down. Faith once again filled doubt's place. The Lord is alive and Mary's sin has died! Mary's own resurrection is assured by a walking, talking Lord who had just beat the daylights out of death!

Trinity friends, as we prepare to celebrate Holy Week, what is out of place in your heart? Is Easter threatening to become a mess of bunnies and bonnets, ham and turkey, relatives and relaxation? Is the joy of Easter overcast with the losses of last year? Does God feel as far away as Pluto, but the worries of life as close as the nose on your face? We know that the Lord of the church LIVES, yet often remain skeptical if he really lives among us, and in us, and works through us...

Friends, an Easter ham has never saved a soul from hell. There is no human loss that is beyond the Lord's ability to bless. And yes, it's true: God does own property on Pluto—which proves that He is as close to you as the Words in your Bible and the communion wafer on your tongue! Mary, Mark, John, Jane, Robert, Ruth (Insert your name here)—your Jesus is alive and your sin has died! Your own resurrection has been assured by the Lord of Life. He has beaten the daylights out of death! These great Easter truths have a way of helping us put the rest of life in its proper place. Jesus' resurrection puts joy in our life, peace in our relationships, and confidence as we work together as a body of believers!

If you ever doubt that our ministry is accomplishing much or if you are ever tempted to major in ministry minors, then don't spend time memorizing the announcement page or meditating on last week's offering total. Instead, look at the bloody cross. Peek inside the empty tomb. Know for certain that Christ is yours and you are his. Your life and your ministry truly matter, because Christ—the living Lord—has put everything back in its proper place!

May Jesus richly bless your Easter!

Pastor Aaron Christie



His Care and Power are Everywhere

HIS DIVINE POWER has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. (2 Peter 1:3)

It was a series of giant steps that took Harlow Shapely from tiny Nashville, Missouri, where he was born in 1885, to the directorship of the Harvard Observatory in Cambridge, Massachusetts. A world-famous astronomer, his thoughts took him far out into space—to stars, galaxies, nebulae. He spoke of the mind and power of God behind this vast universe.

“God is everywhere in our world. The psalmist declares, ‘Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence? If I go up to the heavens, You are there; if I make my bed in the depths, You are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there Your hand will guide me, Your right hand will hold me fast. (Ps. 139:7-10)’ ”

Indeed God is everywhere! At Trinity we are well aware of His all-seeing and all-knowing mind. In addition we see and know that His presence is a comfort and guide for our individual and congregational challenges.

God continues to richly bless us as a congregation when we see new expanded plans for our Spanish Outreach Ministry, our day care program at full capacity, and an excited group of teens making their final plans for attending this summer's WELS National Youth Rally in Fort Collins, Colorado.

CONSTRUCTION and REPAIR UPDATE INFORMATION

- Costs to date - \$529,000 (roof, windows, building upgrades)
- Costs paid with Gifted For Praise donations - \$150,000
- Construction loan (Waukesha State Bank) - \$378,000
- Spring 2016 work – Estimated at \$100,000
 - Lighting control panel
 - 4 Ceiling fans
 - Partial light replacement fixtures
 - Finish roof area above main White Rock entrance

The late Spring and Summer schedule of repairs will be known by June 1, 2016. The congregation will be informed of the plan and financial implications in the next newsletter.

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Weekly envelope and Vanco contributions for fiscal year 2015/2016 are running behind expectation as of this printing—a situation our finance team is monitoring carefully. However, other special gifts to the budget (e.g. Christmas Gift to Jesus, stock transfers, and estate money) have enabled us to pay for year-to-date budgeted expenses without borrowing. In addition, healthy Gifted for Praise contributions are being used to pay for our recent and ongoing capital repair and maintenance projects. We offer to the Lord our heartfelt thanksgiving and praise for this outpouring of generosity from his people at Trinity.

We are reminded in Jeremiah 31:3 *“I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued My faithfulness to you.”*

1. As we find ourselves in the middle of this passion season may we be strengthened in our faith and love for our Savior, Jesus Christ.
2. It is our prayer that our members will remain faithful to our loving Father through worship and thanksgiving.

Ted Oertel

Trinity Congregational President

Trinity Lutheran School - Moving Forward

THERE IS A SAYING that goes **“If you’re not going forward, you’re going backwards.”** There is no such thing as being stagnant. The moment an organization thinks that it has everything just as they want, is when the organization begins going backwards.

In recent years the faculty and Board of Education have taken strides to move forward in improving the Christian education offered at Trinity Lutheran School. One example of this is the area of technology. Currently there are approximately 120 laptops (Chromebooks) available to the students. The speed and bandwidth of the internet has been increased to match the increase of technology usage. To better prepare the students in the area of science, a new hands-on science program for grades 5-8 began this year.

The school will continue to strengthen its curricular offerings next school year. The hands-on science program will be implemented in Kindergarten–Grade 4. Also next year the school will begin formal foreign language study in the area of Spanish for grades 5-8. In order to keep in

good standing with the organizations with which Trinity is currently accredited, Trinity member Dr. Gene Baer will be leading the school through a formal school self-study for the purpose of maintaining its accreditation.

The administration and faculty are also thinking beyond next school year. The faculty is studying ways to enhance the mathematics and English education. The Board of Education is currently researching the state voucher program.

Trinity Lutheran School has moved forward and changed by strengthening its school. But in one thing Trinity will not change: the daily instruction of God’s Word. May the Lord continue to keep us firm in His Word while we move forward in the 21st Century, preparing the children for this life and the eternal life to come.

Jeff Inniger

Trinity Lutheran School Principal

Youth Ministry - Life Changing

FEW THINGS WE EXPERIENCE can be life changing: a marriage, the loss of a parent, or the birth of a child. Many teens haven’t experienced these kinds of events; however, we fail to realize that as adults, we can help provide teens with various life changing experiences and opportunities. Personally, one of these “life-changing” events was the WELS International Youth Rally.

In the summer of 2014, my daughter was registered to attend one of the Waukesha public high schools. Weeks after graduation, she and I were able to attend the youth rally where our faith was rejuvenated, refreshed and we were spiritually ignited! After 3 1/2 days of worship, faith-building workshops with hundreds of Christian teens, and a 14+ hour bus ride home, at 2 o’clock in the morning my daughter plainly said , “Mom, I really liked going to chapel

every morning (at youth rally).” God spoke to my heart at that moment and I knew we had to make the change to have her attend Wisconsin Lutheran High School. Now my daughter has the privilege of attending chapel every day, she is surrounded by Christian teens and teachers, and most importantly, she is continually reminded of God’s presence throughout the school day. I would argue that youth rally was truly life changing for our family.

Although all teens that attend a WELS youth rally may not change their high school plans after attending, there is no doubt that attendance at youth rally will help build up teens in their faith. The experiences at youth rally help teens realize they have Christian brothers and sisters across the country with similar stories, backgrounds and problems. At a time of life when so much is uncertain and

Youth Ministry cont.

stressful, youth rally helps remind our youth that whatever their struggle is, God is with them...always.

I am asking you, the members of Trinity to pray for our teens. They are facing temptations and challenges to their faith daily. Secondly, if the Spirit moves you, I am asking you to consider making a donation to help the teens with their travel expenses for the rally. Donations can be received even after our Teen Sunday, March 6.

Finally, if you are able...consider giving a scholarship to a teen this summer. Your gift may be eternally life changing.

A gift of \$355 will provide a scholarship for one teen to attend the ultimate life-changing event of the summer—the WELS International Youth Rally.

Serving the Savior with you and working together to build His Kingdom,

Laura Reinke

Trinity Youth Ministry Director

Ministry News

Spanish Speaking Ministry Review

The Spanish language ministry has seen a number of blessings from God in the last three months.

ESL Classes: Our English classes continue to draw attention from the Latino community. In our “Winter Course,” we are seeing around 20 students per class of the 25 who are enrolled. A side benefit of this large number is the 12-20 children who accompany their parents to class each night. Several babysitters from Trinity’s school help watch the children and 14 adult members help teach the classes. So despite the cold weather, our English program has grown in numbers from the fall!

Devotions, Worship, & Baptism: The ESL students get to hear a devotion every Wednesday. Perhaps in part as a result of hearing the gospel message, as of this writing, many students and community members are looking forward to worshipping in Spanish at Trinity this Ash Wednesday. Also after hearing the Word at ESL classes, a

number of families have asked about enrolling their children in Trinity’s school. One family has even recently requested to have their daughter baptized into God’s family here at Trinity!

Reaching out: Apart from ESL classes, devotions, and worship services, two different families have been receiving counseling and help in their homes, as well as a number of families at Tomorrow’s Choice. God be praised for the work He’s doing among his people.

Ryan Kolander

Trinity Spanish Language Outreach



Ministry News cont.

Stephen Ministry Expands Caregiving at Trinity

Two members of Trinity were among 321 pastors and congregation leaders at a Stephen Series Leader's Training Course (LTC) held from January 10 to 16 in Orlando, Florida. Wendy Dittmar and Nancy Nemeth attended the one-week training event hosted by the St. Louis-based Stephen Ministries organization.

Stephen Ministry gives Trinity an effective way to train and organize members to provide one-to-one Christian care to individuals struggling with a crisis like grief, divorce, loneliness, relocation, hospitalization, a terminal illness, or unemployment. The need for this type of care greatly exceeds what pastors alone can provide. All Christians are called to care for and love one another—it's not just the pastor's job. By equipping laypeople, we can help them fulfill their calling as Christians and also expand the amount of caring ministry available through Trinity.

Wendy and Nancy were trained as Stephen Leaders at the event. One of their next steps will be to recruit, select, and train members of Trinity to be Stephen Ministers, the ones who will provide one-to-one care. They will then match each Stephen Minister with an individual in need of care and provide the Stephen Ministers with ongoing supervision and continuing education.

For more information on Stephen Ministry call Wendy Dittmar at 262-349-4429.

Wendy Dittmar

Trinity Stephen Minister

Lutheran Military Support Group

Pastor Gates was recently elected to serve on the Board of Directors of this new organization, organized by a group of military veterans from WELS and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS). This group was formed last May under the guidance of the WELS National Civilian Chaplain to the Military, Pastor Paul Ziemer, to support the people in our military and our veterans.

LMSG is designed to serve both locally and nation-wide with active duty support, veteran support and military family support. The goal is to form groups within each congregation of the WELS and ELS to carry out this mission. As of February 1 over 100 congregations have joined. Trinity is one of them. Please watch your bulletins for future information about organizing this group within our church to carry out this mission. Our active duty personnel and our veterans need this kind of support and encouragement.

Pastor Lawrence Gates

Try Growth Groups!

Sign-up for the April '16 session at: trinitywels.com/growthgroups.

This Bible study, primarily based on age: 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s+, is an interactive class encouraging our members to naturally learn more about each other as they study God's Word. One of the main goals of this new ministry is to connect our newest members to our congregation. And this goal is being realized with more than 18 new members of the over 90 attendees who have now joined Growth Groups. We pray it will help our members get to know each other and make meaningful connections for our newest members. This ministry will take a short break for Lent and then will begin a new 5-week study the week of April 18. Try Growth Groups this spring and grow in faith in Christ. Contact coordinator Jason Scherer 414-765-7636 or Pastor Oelhafen soelhafen@trinitywels.com for more info. Be a part of this brand new ministry!

Pastor Scott Oelhafen



Holy Week 2016 Schedule

Palm Sunday – March 20 at 8:15 and 10:45 AM (Regular Sunday Schedule; No Saturday Service)

We witness our Lord's entry into Jerusalem as children shout and sing their praises.

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday – 7:00 PM each evening

30-35 minute prayer services (without sermon) that focus on the events of each day.

Maundy Thursday – March 24 at 10:30 AM and 7:00 PM

We gather to receive the Lord's Supper on the day Christ instituted it.

Good Friday – March 25 at 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM

1:00 PM - **Service of the Cross** - with Sermon *TLS students sing*

7:00 PM - **Service of The Seven Words** - *Mixed Choir sings*

Saturday – March 26 at 7:12 PM (sundown)

The ancient Easter Candlelight Service (The Easter "Vigil") is celebrated with members of Grace, Waukesha and St. John Mukwonago. Holy Communion will be the culmination of this service.

Easter Sunday – March 27 at 6:30, 9:00, and 10:45 AM (No service on Monday night)

6:30 AM - **Sunrise Service: Communion with the Risen Christ**

7:30 AM - *Easter Breakfast*

9:00 and 10:45 AM - **Festival Service** (*completely different from 6:30 AM*)

12:00 AM - Spanish Language Easter Service

New Members, Baptisms, and Marriage

New Members

Sonja Sorenson
Christopher Beyer
Melissa Beyer
Sarah Kohne
Meaghan Daun
Scott Lawrenz
Jenna Lawrenz
Darrell Nelson
Jennifer Nelson
John Ruppel
Alice Ruppel
Kimberly Resler
Paul Kressin
Karen Kressin

Rebekah Kressin
Dan Wittig
Lindsay Wenner
Erin Laabs
Erica Schulz
Blair Ochoki

Baptisms

Bryce Gut
Owen Schneider
Aiden Glasel
Benjamin Pagenkopf
Gavin Woods
Callie Wojak
Dylan Kohne

Jayden McHenry
Daxton Kramer

Marriage

Shawn & Blair Ochoki



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“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 28:19

WORSHIP TIMES

Saturday 5:30 PM, Sunday 8:15 & 10:45 AM & Monday 6:30 PM

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