

March 17, 24 & 31, April 7, 2023

The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

Spring Work Day - April 21

After church on Sunday April 21, we will be having a spring work day focusing mostly on the church grounds. There will be projects for all ages and abilities with lunch afterwards. If you are able to help, please speak with Scott Carson, so that we can plan the work and lunch. Any questions, please contact Scott Carson SDC1338@gmail.com.



Camp Calumet Spring Cleaning - April 26-28, 2024

These annual events are a FREE weekend for anyone who comes to camp and volunteers their time helping us get ready for the height of the season! Winter is over, and it's time to start thinking about the summer, but there's a lot of preparation to be done before camp is ready for prime-time, so come on up and give us a hand!! We need many hands to clear the cobwebs, give the windows a once over, rake up some pine needles, give the beach a facelift -- there's lots to do, and it's a great way to meet new friends, renew existing relationships, and share in the faith, fun, and fellowship that only Calumet can provide. Contact Alice at Camp Calumet: alice@calumet.org



Graduation Sunday

Graduation Sunday will be celebrated in June. If you know someone from Holy Trinity who will graduate from High School, College, Grad School, or another school this year and would like to be recognized, please speak with the Church Office or Helen Goransson.



Pastor Luther's Article: March 17, 2024

This coming Sunday we will conclude our three-part series of adult forums on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Life Together* with a discussion of his chapter on "service." My hope is that this session will lead us into a deeper conversation about what "service" looks like at Holy Trinity. And by "service" in this context, I mean all the concentric circles of serving one another—service in our individual relationships, service to our church, service to our community, and service to the wider world.

In having this conversation, I hope we can model what Bonhoeffer names as "the first service" Christians owe one another—and that is the service of listening. I find what Bonhoeffer says about the ministry of listening to be both profound and underappreciated. I invite you to take a listen:

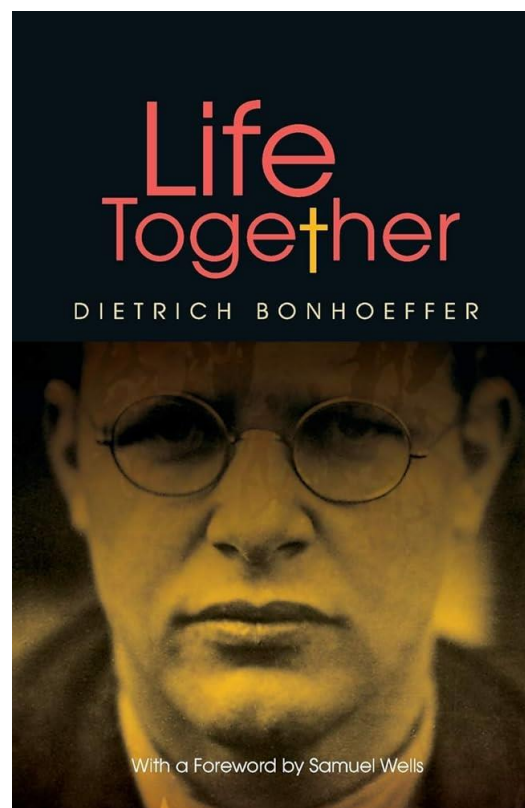
"The first service that one owes to others in community consists in listening. Just as love to God begins with listening to His Word, so the beginning of love for brothers and sisters is learning to listen to them. It is God's love for us that He not only gives us His Word but also lends us His ear.

So it is His work that we do for our brother or sister when we learn to listen to him or her. Christians, especially ministers, so often think they must always contribute something when they are in the company of others, that this is the one service they have to render. They forget that listening can be a greater service than speaking.

Many people are looking for an ear that will listen. They do not find it among Christians, because these Christians are talking where they should be listening. But he who can no longer listen to his brother or sister will soon be no longer listening to God either; he will be doing nothing but prattle in the presence of God too.

*This is the beginning of the death of the spiritual life, and in the end there is nothing left but spiritual chatter and clerical condescension arrayed in pious words. One who cannot listen long and patiently will presently be talking beside the point and be never really speaking to others, albeit he or she may not be conscious of it. Anyone who thinks that his time is too valuable to spend keeping quiet will eventually have no time for God and his neighbor, but only for himself and for his own follies." (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*, chapter 4).*

I hope to see you on Sunday!



Pastor Luther's Article: March 24, 2023

One of the most difficult liturgical decisions pastors have to make on Palm Sunday is whether the focus of our liturgy should remain just on the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, with all of its palm-waving and Hosanna-shouting drama. *Or*, whether we should then add and conclude the liturgy with a reading of the Passion Story, which this year would be from the Gospel of Mark.

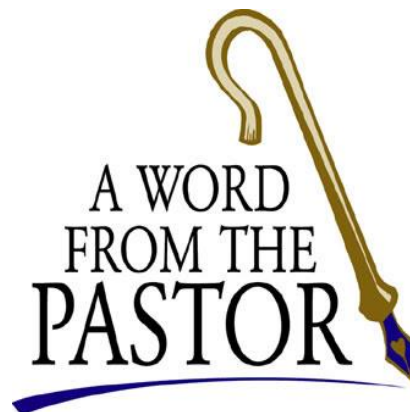
Many decades ago, Protestant churches in America made a decision in favor of the latter option, combining the two stories into one Palm Sunday/Passion liturgy. The principal reason this decision was made was because fewer and fewer congregants were attending Good Friday services--where the passion story is front and center--and it was felt that this was just too important a story to be missed by the average Sunday churchgoer. That is a perfectly sensible decision.

However, the price that is paid in making this choice is that the Palm Sunday liturgy becomes an emotional rollercoaster, moving abruptly from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the horrors of the passion story, in a very compressed and head-spinning timeframe. This approach essentially condenses the entire drama of Holy Week into one service, which can be somewhat confusing.

My preference has been, and is again this year, to separate the liturgy of the palms from the Passion story, so that Palm Sunday remains focused on the triumphal entry narrative, with all of its suspense and expectation. I believe this is more liturgically coherent. In doing this, however, my fervent hope is that all of you will come on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, to watch how the rest of the narrative unfolds during the course of the whole week. These two Holy Week services are among the most powerful in all of Christian liturgy.

I realize, of course, that for some people it may be impossible or difficult to attend Holy Week services. If you fall into that category, I have another option to suggest: please consider taking fifteen minutes out of your day some time next week to read on your own Mark's account of the passion story. It may be found at Mark 14:1--15:47. Or, to make things even easier, you could watch a dramatic reading of the story on video, which has the benefit of offering some visual detail to the story. Finally, I also will be leaving some pamphlets in the Narthex on Sunday with copies of Mark's Passion story in them for those who want to pick one up.

The crucial point is that, in addition to coming to our Palm Sunday service this weekend, I strongly encourage everyone to experience the Passion narrative for him- or herself, either by coming to church during Holy Week or reading or watching story on your own. Remember, we can only get to Easter by going through (not around) Good Friday.



Property Team

With the arrival of spring the Property Team's emphasis will be shifting to outside work. We will be working with Scott Carson again to coordinate a spring workday to tackle some of the normal spring tasks to get the winter debris off the grass, clean up the various garden areas, trim some bushes, do some mulching and other typical spring grounds work. More information about the workday will be provided as we get the details pulled together.

There is more on the spring to-do-list as well. It will soon be time to put up the tent again. We will be putting away the snow shovels and salt buckets, breaking out the water hoses, de-gassing and storing the snowblower, and putting our lawn mowing equipment back in service for the season. As soon as the ground around our church sign at the Spaulding will support truck traffic, we will have a contractor in to complete a routine interior and exterior inspection of our sign. We will ask our snow removal contractor to come in and do some repair and seeding of turf damaged during the winter plow season.



Over the past several weeks we have been able to make some significant progress to address clutter and storage issues in a couple of locations in the building. A significant quantity of unnecessary materials has been removed, and the basement and one of our attic spaces are neater and safer as a result. As part of this work, we donated three sets of roll-away bookcases to the Restore. There is always more work to be done inside, including window washing, various tasks in the kitchen area, resolution of some lighting issues in the sanctuary, and other things as they arise. We will continue with the inside tasks as time and resources permit.

Once again, we are in the process of gathering bids to clean and paint the steeple, clean and stain the exposed exterior wood around the sanctuary and main entry, and to pressure wash the exterior siding around the entire building. The first of four expected bids has been received and all bids should be received in the next week or so. You may recall that we obtained some bids for most of this scope last year and funds were approved for the work. Those bids were not accepted and are no longer applicable. The previously approved funding may or may not be sufficient, given the passage of time and new bidders. The goal is to complete this exterior building maintenance work this summer.

We would like to replace rain gutters and down-spouts to the right of the main entry. Historically, gutters in this location have been a problem because of the steep roof and winter ice buildup on the gutters. Many years ago, the gutters in this area were severely damaged by ice loading and were removed. Thereafter, substantial water collects along the building foundation after heavy rains and often results in water intrusion in the basement. Contractors tend to have little interest in small gutter jobs such as this, so we have gathered information on material costs and availability and plan to do this work ourselves. If weather cooperates, we plan to complete this work before the end of March and, hopefully, before we are challenged by April rains. I consider this work to be an interim

solution that may or may not solve the problem. The cost for the interim work is very modest, probably \$400 or so, and is worth trying.

I was made aware that we have recently had all of our available handicap parking spaces filled and another vehicle seeking handicap parking. We will be looking into providing more spaces near the main entry. David Mercer, Property Team Leader (pro-tempore)

Pastor Luther's Article: March 31, 2024

From Gethsemane to Golgotha to Glory

We are in the throes of the holiest week of our year. These next three days -- what our tradition calls the Paschal Triduum -- encompass the foundational stories and practices of our faith. Jesus gathers us around his table one last time to share bread and wine, drawing us into the mysteries of his own sacrificial love. He gently washes our feet, embodying for us the humility and service of the Christian life, and tells us to love one another as he has loved us. But then, as the powers and principalities of the world rear their ugly head, unable or unwilling to comprehend his way of love and peace, we panic and abandon our Lord. Yielding to weakness and frailty, we give him up to the authorities of the world, to be condemned and crucified. The agony of the Cross exposes and convicts us. All seems lost. His body is carried away, prepared for burial, and secured in a tomb. What now? Then, the unimaginable happens. God refuses to allow the world's hate to have the last word. He is risen! Life overcomes death in the glory of Easter morning.



My hope and prayer is that you are able to live deeply and fully into these sacred stories over these next few days, and most importantly, that on Easter morning you celebrate with utter abandon the joy that is new life in the risen Christ. Please join us for some or all of the many worship opportunities listed here as we live out the great and wonderful drama of our faith.

Holy Week blessings,

Pastor Luther

President's Article

As a church we have walked along the Lenten way together through worship, study, and the breaking of bread together during our soup suppers. We are in the midst of Holy Week, a time that stirs up who we are, who we think we are, and whose we are. I am grateful this stirring is happening in a community...our community of Holy Trinity. May we always welcome more to this pot of the Lord's making.



There are a few Council updates to be shared with you (not in any particular order):

- We are reviewing our Constitution and Bylaws as updated by Russ Hilliard, Judy Evans, and Mark Beliveau. Our goal is to have this ready by the Mid-Year meeting in June.
- The financial audit is in the process of being completed by Tim Althof.
- Our insurance review is being worked on by Dave Smith.
- Thus far no one has inquired about our Music Director position. We have posted the job description at various music educational schools and music organizations. Please continue to pray about this and directly talk with people you may know who are gifted in this area.
- It is with regret that the Council accepted Pam Shaw's resignation as a member at large leading the ministries of "Serve the Lord." Pam shared that her animal welfare commitment has increased as the MSPCA transports more cats and dogs from the South on a weekly basis to find homes in Massachusetts where they have a much better opportunity to find adopters. Plus, she feels like she can make a better contribution as she continues her activities on the Altar Guild, Dover Friendly Kitchen and Team Library. Thank you for all you did while serving on the Council Pam!
- According to the Bylaws, the Council can appoint another member of the congregation to the Council to fill Pam's position until this member can be voted in at the Mid-Year meeting. We are delighted to share that Cristina Dolcino has agreed to serve out the "Serve the Lord" Ministry's term until next January. Thank you Cristina!
- As we constantly change either by our own initiation or in response to external forces, so also does our church. We have set aside time to discuss how we can better meet these changing times during a 24 hour Council retreat at Calumet, April 12-13th. You may think this a very lofty goal for 24 hours, yet I am always surprised at how the spirit moves us in the direction we need to go when our eyes are on the Lord. Some topics we hope to address are how each one of us can minister with our "arms" reaching within Holy Trinity and beyond as we build up and strengthen our community. Greater involvement by and among the members of our congregation aligns with the commitment we made when we called Pastor Luther who is committed to two churches. We are each charged with the task of examining how we can serve. During the retreat we also hope to again explore some of our visions and goals for the next 6 -12 months. This was very helpful to do during our last retreat. Please keep us in your prayers.

Peace, Erlinde

BGLibrary

Look up at the top shelf in the BGLibrary and you'll see a lion. (*Pictured right*) That's Aslan, the lion in C.S. Lewis's "Chronicles of Narnia." In the seven Chronicles, Aslan the Lion is a symbol for Jesus, the Lion of Judah.

This wood carving is a gift from the Popovic family who came to this country from Belgrade in May of 1999. They were sponsored by Holy Trinity in cooperation with other area churches.

Bora Popovic carved the structure from a single piece of wood he found along a trail in Durham. At its dedication, Pastor Lindstrom suggested the title "Lion of Judah." Bora said it represented the family's prayer for love and peace in the world and gratitude for all they had received in America.



Both Barbara and Warren Galle were leaders at Holy Trinity in sponsoring immigrants, beginning with folks from Viet Nam after the war. Before 9/11, which forever changed the way people boarded transportation, Warren personally greeted the international ships in Portsmouth Harbor. This was before the days of cell phones, and many of the sailors hadn't spoken to their families for months. Warren would bring them to Holy Trinity to use our telephone to call home.

Both Galles worked closely with the Popovic family, and because our library was organized under Barbara's leadership, it's appropriate that Aslan, the Lion of Judah, rests on its top shelf.

Prayer Concerns

Health Issues: Franklyn Vosburg, Jerry Schock, Alice Peterson, Don Gindlesperger, Dave Smith, Hazel Larson, Leo Larson, Rani Marcus, Shirley Jackson, Larry Sanders, Julie Moore, Bob Hollister. **Homebound:** Carol Saufley, Barbara Werdelin, Dave & Joyce Rivoire, Anita Lindstrom, Judy Hollister, Jean Klein, June Slipp.

Military: (No active military)

Partners in Ministry: ELCA, New England Synod, Ismani Congregation in Tanzania, Imanuel Indonesian Lutheran Church, Ascentria Care Alliance, Camp Calumet, Operation Blessing, Crossroads, Dover Friendly Kitchen, Good News Garage, Seacoast Family Promise, Salvation Army, & Lutheran World Relief.

Friends: David Roth (Bonnie Sanders' brother), Róisín Ruane (April Murphy's friend), Richard Murray (Jessica Feeley's Brother-in-law), Cinda DeWerff & Dane Wilcox (Rich Wilcox's sister & brother).

Calendar at-a-glance

Sun. April 21, 11:00 AM: Spring Work Day (after Worship)

Sun. May 5, 11:00 AM: Cooking Class (after Worship)

Sun. May 19, 9:30 AM: Pentecost Worship – Confirmation Celebration

Sunday Worship, Sundays at 9:30 AM

Wednesday Bible Study, Wednesdays at 9:30 AM

Property Team, Thursdays at 9:00 AM until *about* noon.

Monthly Attendance & Offering

Sunday, March 3:	97 (<i>In-Person</i>) + 18 (<i>Online</i>) = 115	Offering:	\$18,307.35
Sunday, March 10:	88 (<i>In-Person</i>) + 19 (<i>Online</i>) = 107	Offering:	\$4,242.00
Sunday, March 17:	113 (<i>In-Person</i>) + 17 (<i>Online</i>) = 130	Offering:	\$10,815.90
Sunday, March 24:	95 (<i>In-Person</i>) + 40 (<i>Online</i>) = 135	Offering:	\$10,849.00
Maundy Thursday, Mar. 28:	53 (<i>In-Person</i>) + 17 (<i>Online</i>) = 70		
Good Friday, Mar. 29:	74(<i>In-Person</i>) + 29 (<i>Online</i>) = 103		
Easter Sunday, Mar. 31:	173(<i>In-Person</i>) + 31 (<i>Online</i>) = 204	Offering:	\$3,586.35