



Trinity Steeple Notes

March 2024

A Reflection from the Bard House

When you are finished changing, you are finished.

-Benjamin Franklin



When my family and I joined the Trinity family in 1999 people often commented that our congregation was the “Church of the Revolving Pastor.” There had been numerous staff changes over a short amount of time; folks were tired, and desired some stability. We also undertook an ambitious renovation in anticipation of celebrating our 250th anniversary. Thanks to that foresight we have welcoming narthex space, a large elevator, and a lovely Hintz Room for gathering.

Together we created a long-range vision, “Inspired for Mission,” and continued to joyfully worship, learn, and serve together. In the following years we also experienced heartache at the sudden death of Pastor Jeanne Beadle, our minister to the deaf congregation, and the loss of Dr. Randel Wolfe, who suffered a brain injury and was no longer able to lead our music ministry. Throughout the decades we have had several support staff changes for a variety of reasons. In between we had several interim ministers including our own Pastor Tom Reinsel, and faithful volunteers to lead music and choirs in worship. We welcomed Karen Eddinger as our Minister of Music. We celebrated the retirements of Pastor Fred Opalinski and Pastor Alan Wolkenhauer. And now we have called Pastor Hans Becklin (the 10th pastor with whom I have the privilege of serving.) New members and friends have joined our ministry. Others have departed. And each transition, whether joyful or tragic, brings its own stress.

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The ancient Greek philosopher, Heraclitus of Ephesus, articulated the constant nature of change claiming that no one steps through the same river twice for it's not the same river and they are not the same person. There is nothing permanent except change. That is the beautiful nature of life. Nothing is stagnant. Even the sturdiest iron beam, the highest steeple, or heaviest rock is in motion as the molecules vibrate, rotate, and translate. Imagine this world if there were no change. (Personally, I am grateful for the development of indoor plumbing, electricity, and heat.)

You will see visible change at Trinity when you walk through the motorized Annex door and turn to the left. The creation of a larger, more welcoming space and installation of an accessible family bathroom is underway. Faithful Trinity volunteers meet every Tuesday evening - demolishing and rebuilding, sanding and cleaning. There is work for all ages and abilities! In the next couple of weeks we will be moving items from the stage into the conference room and archive room. The auditorium will soon be a dusty construction zone. Common Ground will worship in our Hintz Room for a few weeks until the multipurpose room floor is completed. We are experiencing change once again and will continue to do so whether we like it or not. This is where the serenity prayer is especially helpful, asking God for acceptance, courage, and wisdom.

Thanks be to God, who joins us in our constant motion, continues to be present and faithful, and promises to be with us until the end of the age! These are exciting times at Trinity, indeed.

Come join us and be part of the movement!

--Dcs. Deborah Graf

Steeple Notes

A Note from Our Vestry President



Church Leadership

Vestry met on Monday, February 19. The meeting minutes for December (amended) and January were approved. Correspondence received included a thank you note from Bishop deForest for the gifted mitre that he wore at Pastor Hans' installation service. Vestry received the names of Vickie Unruh, Dan Huyett and Allison Kalbach to serve on the Audit Committee and all were unanimously approved.

The Search Committee for Minister of Music has been fully established with Ralph Unruh serving as chair. Personnel Committee is finalizing an updated job description which will be forward to Vestry for the March Vestry Meeting. If the job description is approved, the position will be posted early April.

The Auditorium and HVAC projects continue to move forward. Bidding for the Auditorium project is underway. The deadline to continue to qualify for the project assistance grant is June 30. Judd Firestone has been contracted for plumbing to include assistance with ongoing issues from the antiquated sewer system. Additionally, Habitat For Humanity will be assisting with auditorium demolition. Trinity will give a donation for their time and help on the project.

The Finance Committee has established an ad hoc committee to write an investment policy which will determine how and who manages the investment portfolios, which will be utilized to direct investment funds going forward. The Treasurer's Report was approved and there was discussion about ways to increase income from parking space rentals. Vestry will next meet on March 18.

--Amy Litvinov, Vestry President

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Worship at Trinity this Lent and Holy Week

Midday worship: Join us at 12:05 PM in Trinity's chapel for a simple, 25-minute Eucharist on the remaining Wednesdays of Lent: March 6, March 13, and March 20. For those who cannot worship mid-day, we are also welcome to join

Common Ground Recovery Community (at Atonement Lutheran Church, 5 Wyomissing Blvd.) for Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00 PM. For the first time, we'll also hold our midday services on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week (March 25, 26, and 27). Bring a brown-bag lunch to eat with us after each of our midday services. Trinity will provide coffee and tea to lubricate conversation!



Holy Week (March 24-30)

We'll gather on **Palm Sunday** at 9 AM for a Palm Procession and Prayer Walk through our neighborhood. Our worship will begin at 10 AM and will include a splendid setting of the Passion led by Trinity's choir.

We'll hold brief **midday services on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday** at 12:05 PM in our chapel.

On **Maundy Thursday**, we'll gather at 7:30 PM for a Festival Eucharist as we celebrate Jesus' institution of the sacrament, his washing of the disciples' feet, and his command to love one another. Maundy Thursday worship will be broadcast live on Comcast Channel 190 and streamed on Trinity's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

On **Good Friday**, we'll gather at 12:05 PM for worship—with scripture, preaching, and song all focused on the scandal and glory of the cross. In keeping with ancient tradition, the Eucharist is not celebrated on this day and Trinity's bells are silent.

Easter Sunday (March 31): Join us for a very special Eucharist as we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord at 10 AM and stay for the Intergenerational Egg Hunt.

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SURPRISE! Intergenerational Easter Egg Hunt after Easter Sunday Worship



Just as the joy of the resurrection was a surprise to the women at the tomb, the Trinity Easter Egg Hunt will surprise people of all ages. In the past, our hunt was for young children; older youth hid eggs full of candy and small gifts. This year, the eggs will also contain surprises for older youth and adults. We will gather on the portico after worship to begin the hunt together. (Please wait for Deaconess Deborah to join you.) Spectators are welcome, but you may just want to join the fun. Donations of candy and small trinkets (to fit inside the eggs) are welcome and appreciated. They can be dropped off on Sunday in the narthex or in the Bard House during office hours, Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

Congratulations, Youth of Trinity!

Congratulations to **Jacinda Motley** and **Abbie Smith**, who will be participating in the Junior County Music Festival on April 6. Jacinda placed 3rd in the soprano I section. She will represent the Exeter School District. She studies voice with Mary McCormick Archutowski. Abbie plays flute and attends Southern Middle School in the Wilson School District. Her band teacher is Mr. Jerry Laborante and her private flute teacher is Mrs. Donnasue Thompson.

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Sunday Forum

9:00 AM in the Hintz Room - Interesting. Informative. Inspiring.

Sunday Forum in March: Worship Under the Microscope continued

Why do we worship the way that we do? Whether you can define *anamnesis* and spell *Nunc dimittis* or are totally new to liturgical worship, you'll learn something during this series as we explore our historic liturgy in detail.

Throughout Lent, we'll go through the service in order and reflect together on what we've heard and seen as participants in worship throughout our life. We'll also learn about what the words and actions of the liturgy mean, where they come from, and what they can teach us about our walk with our Lord.

Note that, due to the Palm Procession and Prayer Walk, there will be no Sunday Forum on Palm Sunday, March 24th.

In Case of Inclement Weather

If winter weather causes us to cancel worship or other Trinity events, we will share those changes with Channel 69 and post the notice on Trinity's website and Facebook page.

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Worship Assistants: It's a Breeze!

Everyone who volunteers in worship (as an Assisting Minister, Lector, Communion Assistant, Acolyte, Greeter, Usher, or Media Volunteer) will now be scheduled using a new, streamlined system.

Instead of our previous mishmash of physical sign-up sheets, phone calls, and Sign Up Genius, every role is now being assigned using a system called **Breeze**.

At the beginning of each month, you'll get an email to your primary email address inviting you to indicate the Sundays in the following month when you are not available. For example, on March 1st, we'll send out an email asking volunteers to indicate when they're not available for the month of April. This same blackout date form works for every role in worship, so you only need to do it once.

Once you've indicated the days when you're not available, you'll get an email with the dates you have been assigned to serve. If something has changed (or we've made a mistake), don't despair! In the confirmation email, you'll be able to click on a link to confirm the assignment. You can also always contact Rachel Gambone in the church office and indicate that something is amiss.

A few days before the service, you'll also get a reminder email, so you don't need to wonder or worry if you're serving that Sunday or not!

Questions? Talk to Pr. Hans or Matt Mellen.

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Concert Reminders

Join us on Sunday, March 10th at 4:00 PM for a concert by the Albright College Choir Chamber Ensemble under the direction of Dr. Derrick L. Thompson.

Mark your calendars for two upcoming concerts by Reading Musical Foundation Scholarship winners: Sunday, April 28 and Sunday, May 19th at 4:00 PM.

Wanted: One Treasurer

The Fall Festival of the Arts is looking for a volunteer to take over the duties of Treasurer which Alison Whalen has been diligently performing for YEARS.

Job includes preparation of budgets, bookkeeping, reporting, keeping the bank account and check book, receiving and paying the bills, dealing with tickets and credit cards, depositing, tracking and acknowledging contributions.

Time commitment: monthly meetings. For much of the year, very little time needed.

In the weeks leading up and during the Festival, things get busy – plan on several hours per week. It is a great chance to get to know and work with our friends at Christ Episcopal and in the arts community.

Contact Dail Richie at 610-223-9302 or dail.richie@comcast.net.

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Outreach and Service

March opportunity:

LightHouse Women's and Children's Center

Through special Lenten offerings, Trinity continues to support the ministry of the LightHouse Women's and

Children's Center, which provides a safe place and nurture for women and their kids experiencing homelessness. We still have beautiful Heart for Home mugs available in the narthex, along with envelopes for your special donation.

April opportunity: Family Promise of Berks County April 4-21

We will once again be joining Atonement Lutheran in sponsoring two weeks, April 4-21. We provide tangible support by donating groceries, gift cards, and a few home cooked meals. A form to sign up will be available by late March.

Family Promise of Berks County works to help families and youth achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response.

You can find out more information at: <https://www.familypromiseofberks.org/>

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March Broadcast Schedule

All of our programs listed below can be watched on Comcast Channel 190 (in the Reading Hospital, Channel 80) or online at any time at www.trinityreading.org, on Facebook, or on our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/trinitylutheranchurch. Worship is streamed at 10:00 AM on Sundays.



Sundays

6:00 PM World Views:

World Hijab Day

6:30 PM Music From Trinity:

Soli Deo Gloria (Part 1)

7:00 PM Trinity Worship Service

Wednesdays

4:00 PM Trinity Worship Service

5:00 PM Music From Trinity:

Soli Deo Gloria (Part 1)

5:30 PM World Views:

World Hijab Day

Prepare for Worship

March 3: Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

March 10: Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

March 17: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

March 24: Mark 11:1-11; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11;

Mark 14:1-15:47

March 31: Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Mark 16:1-8

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Easter Flower/World Hunger Gifts

We invite you to support Easter Sunday flowers and the ELCA's World Hunger program. You may bring your flowers home after Easter Sunday worship or share them to be delivered to homebound members and/or planted to beautify Trinity's courtyard. Donations of any amount are appreciated.



_____ I want to bring my flowers home on Easter Sunday

_____ I want to share my flowers with homebound members and Trinity's courtyard garden

You may contribute in honor of or in memory of someone you love. Gifts will be acknowledged in Trinity publications. Use the form below and send it with your gift to Trinity's office no later than March 17, 2024. May your Easter be blessed with the love and peace of Christ.

_____ Easter flowers

_____ World Hunger

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Given by _____

Staff of Trinity Lutheran Church

The Rev. Hans E. Becklin	Senior Pastor
Deaconess Deborah Graf	Deacon for Formation & Service
Karen S. Eddinger	Minister of Music
Matthew Mellen	Media Director
Rachel Gambone	Parish Secretary
Peter Graf	Financial Administrator
Dave Troche	Sexton

The Rev. Fred S. Opalinski Pastor Emeritus

Vestry of Trinity Lutheran Church

Amy Litvinov +	President, <i>Congregational Life</i>
Jennifer Smith +	Vice President, <i>Media</i>
Martha Good +	Secretary, <i>Congregational Life</i>
Erica Hofmann +	Treasurer, <i>Finance</i>
Steve Welz +	<i>Personnel</i>
Donna Osborne	<i>Worship & Music</i>
Eric Rosenbaum	<i>Property</i>
Tom Hofmann	<i>Outreach & Service</i>
Pr. Hans E. Becklin +	

+ indicates members of the Executive Committee

Email the Vestry: vestry@trinityreading.org Email Pastor Hans: hbecklin@trinityreading.org



At Trinity, we welcome all LGBTQ+ people as full participants in our common life. We're proud to proclaim this publicly in our city and wider church as a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

Trinity Lutheran Church

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www.trinityreading.org