

The Trumpet

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Trinity Lutheran Church

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Pilgrimage Ponderings

Deacon Jeanie has a practice, I have adopted, of choosing a word annually. As I have previously shared, sometimes that practice and process is difficult and time consuming, sometimes the word comes more quickly and simply. This past January, after much prayer and reflection, the word "Transition" kept rising to the surface of my consciousness. It's not an easy word to take on as a guide for the year, but it is my word for 2023. I knew this year would hold lots of changes - some changes as part and parcel of the progression of life, other changes a bit more like the stage of maternal labor known as transition with brings pressure and urgency and lack of control.

Transition is defined as: the process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another. It could be used in a sentence like this: "She transitioned from a college student to a professional in the world of marketing." OR "He went through the difficult transition from happily married to grieving widower." Transition, I am discovering, is an apt description of not just my life - soon to be the mom of 2 college graduates entering their chosen professions; spouse of a recent retiree. Transition is also an apt description of the Williams County ELCA Parish.

For the past several months there have been ongoing conversations and decisions which have impacted, especially the Bryan congregations of First & Trinity. Conversations have included recommendations for increased sharing of worship and fellowship and ministries. Initially the sharing began as an effort to maintain a Handbell Choir, so bell-ringers from both congregations joined together in rehearsal and in sharing special music. This past February Trinity and First began monthly combined worship services on the Third Sunday of the month, each month included a delightful time of fellowship after worship, further establishing connections with each other. At the end of March, the councils of First & Trinity met for conversation regarding how those efforts might be increased and enhanced moving forward. Additionally, both churches underwent a professional assessment of physical properties, with emphasis on maintenance and repair concerns. Like the transition of maternal labor we have experienced a sense of pressure and urgency and lack of control....but like maternal labor there has also been an awareness of something far more significant on the horizon.

On April 23, 2023, the congregations of Trinity and First, and several elected leaders of St. Peter's gathered in conversation facilitated by Northwestern Ohio Synod Staff, assistants to the Bishop Deacon Sherry Kreiger and Pastor Sarah Schaaf. That conversation focused on perceptions and gifts of the larger community - Bryan and Williams County - and how the parish congregations served that perception or gifts of the community. As part of the process it was deemed the next logical step, given the hard data and the desired goal for maintaining a viable Lutheran witness in Bryan, was



Worship Schedule

Sundays 10:00am

Sunday School 9:00am

Saturdays 6:00pm



Mothers Day

May 14, 2023



May 21, 2023, 9:30am

Final Day of

Sunday School

May 29, 2023

Memorial Day



Worship Focus for May

May 6 & 7 Fifth Weekend of Easter

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

May 13 & 14 Sixth Weekend of Easter

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

May 20 & 21 Seventh Weekend of Easter

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

May 27 & 28 Pentecost Weekend

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Return Service Requested

www.tlcbryan.com
Phone: 419-636-3387

Trinity Lutheran Church
509 Center Street
Bryan, OH 43506

Trinity Lutheran Church
May 2023

The Trumpet



Non Profit Organ.
Postage Paid
Permit #164
Bryan, OH 43506



Church League Softball

Join the Team - The Williams County ELCA Parish is seeking players. Anyone age 14 or older is welcome to join the team for healthy fun and good fellowship. Games are played at Bryan Parks and Recreation Church Field, mostly on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings. You don't have to be a church member to play on the team. For more information call Jason Johnston 419-636-6414.



May Birthdays

May is time for the birthday celebration of two of our Trinity folks. On the 5th, Wayne Weber, 02481 Co. Rd. 15, turns 91. Also on the 5th, Goldie Wieland, 11390 Co. Rd. D, will celebrate her 82nd birthday. We wish them God's continued blessings.



Summer Sunday School

A reminder to parents and students...The final session of Sunday School will be May 21st at 9:30am. We will not offer summer Sunday School. We hope to see you in May and enjoy your summer vacations!!!!

May Baptismal Birthdays

2 Connie Elegeer	12 Linda Hulbert	18 Isabella Diaz	27 Rita Baird
2 Courtney Combs	16 Nathan Hess	19 Thomas Foster	28 Lynne Miller
6 Aiden Moore	16 Brooke Taylor	23 McKenzie Hitchcock	28 Suzanne Bevr
8 Diane Russell	18 Bill Darrow	27 Alyssa Humbarger	30 Erik Diaz
9 Ashley Beaver	18 Lyndsey Darrow	27 Daniel Humbarger	30 Cathy Leu
10 Gene Webb		27 Pam Lanius	



Please remember our shut-ins with prayers, notes, cards, etc. They really enjoy hearing from you.



Jim Helbig
Hillside Country Living
09876 Co. Rd. 16 #607B
Bryan, OH 43506

Altha Dooley
Hillside Country Living
09876 Co. Rd. 16, #715B
Bryan, OH 43506

Merle & Betty Griffis
Hillside Country Living
09876 Co. Rd. 16, # 401
Bryan, OH 43506

Doris Geren
01690 St. Rt. 576
Bryan, OH 43506

Arlene Goshia
Hillside Country Living
09876 Co. Rd. 16, # 502
Bryan, OH 43506

Marion Rickenberg
Hillside Country Living
09876 Co. Rd. 16 #807A
Bryan, OH 43506



Geraniums for Pentecost

Pentecost is May 27 & 28, 2023, the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church. The Liturgical color for Pentecost is red. We would like to decorate the sanctuary with red geraniums and then plant them outside to remind us that the church is to grow and bloom. If you would like to sponsor a geranium for this special celebration, the cost will be \$5 each. There is a sign-up sheet on the kiosk in the narthex along with payment envelopes. Also, please remember to wear something red to church that weekend.

Congratulations to Trinity's May College Graduates!

Allie Darrow who graduates from the University of Toledo with a Doctorate of Pharmacy.

Lauren (Taylor) Gleckler who graduates from Owen's Community College Dental Hygiene program.

Joshua Webb who graduates from the University of Toledo with a Doctorate of Pharmacy.

Rachel Webb who graduates from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio with a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish, Bachelor of Education, and Master of Arts in Spanish.

College Graduation





Wise Words

Have you ever defined the word faith? What does faith mean to you? Have you ever wrestled with finding just the right words to describe what faith is for you?

I am taking a yearlong online course from Spiritualityandpractice.com where each week we explore a practice through readings, presentations, and discussion. The various practices are ones you have heard of and possibly follow in your Christian walk. Words like devotion, paying attention, being present and compassion.

A few weeks ago, we delved into faith and I found it fascinating to dig deep into how this word is expressed in my mind, heart, and life. Faith is more than doctrinal beliefs - "I am Lutheran, so this is my faith." So much more.

Faith is trust.

Faith seeks the holy.

Faith is an experience of the divine.

Faith is a relationship with God.

Faith is truth, what I know deep in my heart to be true even when I can't explain it.

Faith contains mystery, meaning, and something more, beyond my comprehension.

Faith is a surrendering to a higher power.

Faith is hope, knowing we are not alone.

Faith is energy and courage to do good even when it is counterculture.

Faith can grow from doubts.

Faith is seeing Jesus in every person we encounter.

Faith is the awe and wonder of this ocean of God we all live in.

Mother Theresa wrote, "God does not demand that I be successful. God demands that I be faithful. When facing God, results are not important. Faithful is what is important."

"Doubting is not a sin. Nor does it denote a lack of faith. Lack of faith is a pure and simple disbelief. Doubting is an invitation to enter into the mystery more deeply, to go beyond the superficial." John Aurelio

My prayer for all of us is "Increase our faith, Lord. Take us deeper."

Jeanie



Thank you for all the cards, phone calls, visits and prayers I received for my birthday. I enjoyed them very much. Doris Geren



Thank you to the following folks whose talent and faithful discipleship were evident as they brought Biblical characters to life for our Midweek Lenten Worship Services: Dave Schumm who portrayed Moses, Tim Foster who portrayed Nathan, Ruth Soto who portrayed Mary the Mother of Jesus, Keith Day who portrayed Paul, and Trudy Day who portrayed Lydia. Our worship was enhanced and our faith increased.



Thank you to the Secret Green Thumb Society which keeps the church landscape looking neat, planting and mulching and weeding, as well as picking up of sticks and other wind-driven debris littering the lawn - you know who you are and your friends in Christ are grateful for your humble service.



Thank you for your Easter offerings which covered the unexpected cost of the recent boiler repair - now let's pray that we won't need to fire up the boiler again until next fall!



Thank you to Steve Fireovid, Martha Eickhoff, Joe Whisler, Keith Day, Lisa Whitman and Jason Johnston who serve

90th Birthday



Please join us
for a
celebration
honoring



Pastor David Proctor

Sunday, June 4th, 2023, 11:00am-2:00pm
Trinity Lutheran Church
509 Center Street
Bryan, OH 43506

April Attendance & Offerings

Date	Attendance	Offering
Budgeted Need \$3,707.00		
4/1/2023 Sat Worship	25	
4/2/2023 Sun Worship	52	\$5,818.00
4/6/2023 Maundy Thurs noon	15	
4/8/2023 Easter Sat Vigil	20	
4/9/2023 Easter Sun Worship	80	\$1,951.00
4/15/2023 Sat Worship	24	
4/16/2023 Sun Worship	37	\$2,981.00
4/22/2023 Sat Worship		
4/23/2023 Sun Worship		
4/29/2028 Sat Worship		
4/30/2028 Sun Worship		

Avg Attendance April 2023

building use - kitchen	
initial offering	27.00
roof fund	1100.00
Joint Parish - First	1727.31
Joint Parish - St. Peters	
Easter lilies	126.00
scholarship	100.00
building use	375.00
Easter	1770.00
Foundation	0.47
Lutheran Disaster Response	500.00



Mother's Day Word Search

R F S W N H U G S M L C R Q
E Z R P L Y L X X O H A L T
H T E N L W L W V I H R C V
T L W Q V T H I L R E I T N
O O O C M C N D M H F N N D
M V L T N G R N T A T G U F
Y E F U M E M O B N F R A W
W M R C N K M T E C C Y L M
C B M J K D I R C T A M T Q
K R J O N L A D P Q R R Q V
Y A M A M P G K S N V Q D X
H D R R R E T H G U A D N Y
C G Y F Q M P R E S E N T S
S U N D A Y B Q C A N D Y N

AUNT
BRUNCH
CANDY
CARD
CARING
CHILDREN
DAUGHTER
FAMILY
FLOWERS
GRANDMOTHER
HUGS
KIDS
LOVE
LOVING
MAY
MOMMY
MOTHER
PARENT
PRESENTS
SUNDAY

May 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 4:00pm Bell Practice at Trinity	4 National Day of Prayer 	5  Happy Birthday Wayne Weber 91  Happy Birthday Goldie Wieland 82	6 6:00pm Worship w/ HC
7 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship w/ HC	8 6:30pm Finance 7:00pm Council	9 12:30pm Mission Quilters	10 4:00pm Bell Practice at Trinity	11 Loaves & Fishes	12	13 6:00pm Worship w/ HC
14 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship w/ HC  Happy Mothers Day	15	16	17 4:00pm Bell Practice at Trinity	18	19	20 6:00pm Worship w/ HC
21 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/ HC combined service at TLC w/ First Lutheran Church	22 Deadline for June Trumpet	23	24	25	26	27 No Saturday Worship
28 10:00am Worship w/ HC	29  Memorial Day	30	31			

May Assignments

DATE PROJECTION SOUND
WORSHIP ASSISTANT

May Rhonda Martha Tom
7 Fackler Eickhoff Smith

May Mike Jason Jim
14 Bever Johnston Hitchcock

May Buddy Lisa Joe
21 Rossow Whitman Whisler

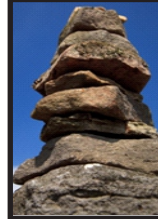
May Joe Steve Henry
28 Whisler Fireovid Burklo

May Scripture Verse

"But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." Romans 8:25

May Prayer Quote

"Go where your best prayers take you."
Frederick Buechner



The Monthly Ebenezer

"As far as the east is from the west..." WOW! And that's really far. Psalm 103:12

Take 5 for Faith

5 Minutes - 5 Steps - Everyday

For 2023 we have, most days, more than one reading, but all are similar in story but different in author. Nevertheless, the process is the same:

Share your ups & downs of the day.

Read the suggested Bible passages.

Reflect on the scripture story, its meaning for you and our world.

Pray for family, friends, the church & world.

Bless yourself & others.

May 1 - Matt. 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; Luke 7:26-50; John 12:1-8

May 2 - Luke 8:1-3

May 3 - Mark 3:20-21

May 4 - Matt. 12:22-30; Mark 3:22-27; Luke 11:14-23

May 5 - Matt. 12:31-32; Mark 3:28-30; Luke 12:10

May 6 - Matt. 12:33-37

May 7 - Matt. 12:38-42; Luke 11:29-32

May 8 - Matt. 12:43-45; Luke 11:24-26

May 9 - Matt. 12:46-50; Mark 3:31-35; Luke 8:19-21

May 10 - Matt. 13:1-9; Mark 4:1-9; Luke 8:4-8

May 11 - Matt. 13:10-17; Mark 4:10-12; Luke 8:9-10

May 12 - Matt. 13:18-23; Mark 4:13-20; Luke 8:11-15

May 13 - Mark 4:21-25; Luke 8:16-18

May 14 - Mark 4:26-29

May 15 - Matt. 13:24-30

May 16 - Matt. 13:31-32; Mark 4:30-32; Luke 13:18-19

May 17 - Matt. 13:33; Luke 13:20-21

May 18 - Matt. 13:34-35; Mark 4:33-34

May 19 - Matt. 13:36-43

May 20 - Matt. 13:44

May 21 - Matt. 13:45-46

May 22 - Matt. 13:47-50

May 23 - Matt. 13:51-52

May 24 - Matt. 13:53-58; Mark 6:1-6; Luke 4:16-30

May 25 - John 5:1-18

May 26 - John 5:19-29

May 27 - John 5:30-47

May 28 - Matt. 14:1-2; Mark 6:14-16; Luke 9:7-9

May 29 - Matt. 14:3-12; Mark 6:17-29

May 30 - Matt. 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15

May 31 - Matt. 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-52; John 6:16-21

June 1 - Matt. 14:34-36; Mark 6:53-56

June 2 - John 6:22-59

June 3 - Matt. 15:1-9; Mark 7:1-13

June 4 - Matt. 15:10-20; Mark 7:14-23

June 5 - Matt. 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30

the establishment of a task force to propose a process by which the 2 Bryan Congregations of the Williams County ELCA Parish, might move toward some decisions regarding those ministries. That task force will be empowered by the councils of the Parish congregations to bring recommendations to each of the congregations for our life together moving forward.

I was not expecting quite this impactful of a year when the word "Transition" kept popping into my consciousness in prayer and reflection last winter. It would be easier to keep on keeping on as we have been and avoid the pressure, urgency, and lack of control. But that would also deny what I am sensing as the work of the Holy Spirit to birth something which we can't quite imagine yet. This newsletter article is shared in order that you will join your prayers in the transition process as we embrace reality and opportunity together to be faithful in heeding the Spirit's work in our midst.

The Apostle Paul, in writing to the early Christian church in Rome - who I am guessing might have struggled mightily with their identity and their history and the new future to which they were being called and moved by the Holy Spirit - shared these words,

¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God." Romans 8:14-27

Journeying together, in Jesus' name,

Pastor Mary Beth

Pastor Mary Beth Smith-Gunn

