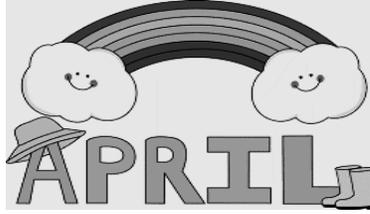


Trinity **SONRISE** News



Trinity Lutheran Church

on the Sunrise Side of Michigan

2020

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR AZZAM

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

When considering what I might write to you this month, I could not overlook what seems to be on the minds and hearts of every member these last weeks. A few months ago no one had ever heard of corona virus or Covid-19. When we learned that there were no vaccines or cure, it got our attention. In just a few weeks we learned that people were dying from the disease even in our own country. This past week Governor Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan health department communicated how the state would respond to mitigate the spread of this disease and steps we all should consider implementing. Even at this writing, more executive orders may be on their way. In response to this, Trinity's church council recommended and will implement the following between now and the first week of April

As of March 17 All worship services and Bible studies have been cancelled until April 5, Palm Sunday. Video is available on Trinity's Facebook Page and audio and other materials are displayed in the main entrance.

WE WILL IMPLIMENT THESE PRACTICES AGAIN ON PALM SUNDAY.

1. The greeter will offer hand sanitizer as you enter the sanctuary.
2. You will be asked to pick up your own bulletin
3. We encourage you to leave a good space between your family and the next. There is plenty of space for everyone. (This may mean giving up your favorite spot)
4. The offering plates will not be passed, but you may leave your offering on the way out in the plate provided at the end of the aisle.
5. I will not be shaking hands with you on the way out.
6. On communion Sundays you will be offered the blood of Christ in individual cups only and you will be given room to spread out left and right to give one another safe distance.
7. If you have cold like symptoms, please stay home out of respect and love for your neighbor.
8. Lastly wash your hands regularly and shield your cough or sneeze with your sleeve or a tissue.
9. The drinking fountain will also be turned off, but cups will be available by the coffee station.

Check the answering machine for the latest updates and the scroll across our web page: trinityoscoda.org

Believe it or not Martin Luther ministered during the darkest days of the Black Death. He had these words to say that can help inform the way we approach what is going on in our world right now. "I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid

places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me however I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash no foolhardy and does not tempt God." Luther's Works Volume 43 pg 132 the letter "Whether one may flee from a Deadly Plague"

May the Lord bless us as we face the current times and grant us wise and prudent choices whatever the circumstance. We pray for our nation and encourage you to do so as well, as we all face these same challenges. We pray for researchers, health care workers and those afflicted. Finally, we ask that the Lord would lighten the load on those already suffering and bring about healing according to his good and gracious will.

As Easter approaches with the news of resurrection, we do not grieve as the world does over things we cannot control, but we act wisely in faith, waiting on the same Lord who raised Jesus from the dead to deliver us through this season remembering his Easter morning words...Peace be unto you. Amen

Pastor Timothy Azzam



Michigan District, LCMS COVID-19 Mitigation Measures

"The LORD is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid ... One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I will seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple" (Psalm 27: 1, 4).

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Following a 16-minute video offering words of encouragement and advice, the following words appeared in Friday's communication from the office of the Michigan District President, The Rev. Dr. David P.E. Maier:

To be sure, God's Word directs and encourages his people to gather for worship of him and to receive from him his good gifts through his Word and Sacraments. This has always been true, and now perhaps especially true, as we need mutual encouragement from fellow saints and assurance from God's Word that he is with us and for us and that he has destroyed the greatest pandemics--sin, Satan, and Death--through the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Gathering for worship is not "just a social thing," it is a biblical encouragement and expectation of God. It is what God's people in Christ do.

With that said, we encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ to continue in prayer, worship, hearing the Word of God, and receiving the Sacrament as might be provided in a responsible way, even during this time of uncertainty with the Coronavirus (COVID 19).

AND we encourage the use of "sanctified wisdom." Please consider the following:

Recognize that Governor Whitmer has given an executive order that "gatherings over 250" should be suspended or postponed until April 5, 2020 at 5 p.m.

- Does this affect your worship gathering?

- Might you consider adding services to your congregation's schedule to spread out the numbers of worshipers?
 - You may want to make use of live streaming opportunities for home use by individuals and/or family groups. Our Communications Department, with assistance from Rev. Nikolai Gibbons, has put together a how-to live-stream video to help you set up live streaming your services. If you have a small group ministry, you may want to leverage its use during this time especially.
- As you gather for worship, we offer the following out of love for one another and our neighbor(s):
- Hand sanitizer "manned" and mandatory use at each entrance to the worship space.
 - Use of disposable individual cups for Holy Communion is encouraged along with "continuous flow" distribution.
 - Although it may be your custom, avoid greeting each other with a hand shake, hug, or "holy kiss." Simply greet one another with a smile and words of blessing.
 - Respect "space" between fellow worshipers (6 feet) when possible.
 - Encourage members to frequently wash their hands.
 - Pastors and other worship leaders make use of hand sanitizers before "setting the table" for Holy Communion.
 - DO NOT pass the plate for the offering, but have it in front or in back of the sanctuary for worshippers to give their offering to the Lord. Encourage the use of electronic giving.
 - Direct custodial staff to pay special attention to "high touch" items like bathroom counters and faucets, door handles, stair rails, light switches, and the like.
 - Consider providing means of hydration other than drinking fountains.
 - Communicate to all that those members who, because of health or age, are at greatest risk, that they may choose not to attend public worship. Hold them especially in your prayers.
 - Encourage those who are "not feeling well" to stay at home for the sake of their brothers and sisters.
- Should your congregation choose to suspend worship for the next couple of weeks, we offer the following:
- Work to provide live streaming of your worship service.
 - Communicate with members often with printed devotions and prayers.
 - Leverage the use of email and other social media in order to get the Good News out.
 - Provide excellent pastoral care and encourage members to care for one another and their neighbors in the Name of Jesus.
 - Encourage smaller gatherings of saints for prayer and reading of the Scriptures.
 - Make use of electronic giving.
 - You cannot over communicate with your people! Keep them informed and connected as the Body of Christ.

Pandemic resources are available in the online Resource Library on the District website. The document links provide resources for addressing key issues in congregations and schools that impact the delivery of essential services and operations.

DISTRICT OFFICE SERVICES WILL CONTINUE; STAFF WILL WORK MOSTLY FROM HOME

Out of care and concern for our families and those that we serve, and by way of example, all Michigan District Office staff will work from home as much as possible (staff may come in to the office as needed) from March 16 through April 6. We will continue to evaluate as the situation unfolds.

All services provided by the Michigan District will continue without interruption, and you will be able to reach staff members by phone or email. This statement applies to the Michigan District Office only and does not apply to the Church Extension Fund (CEF) office. If you have questions for CEF, please contact them directly at 800.242.3944.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24).

STEWARDSHIP

He is Risen! And Now . . .

One of the most glorious sections in all of Scripture is found in 1 Corinthians 15 where we find the words of St. Paul as he expounds on Christ's crucifixion, resurrection, and subsequent appearances to His disciples. He writes about the implications of those events that, just as we all died in Adam, so in Christ we are all made alive and that, just as Christ has a new glorified body, so shall we put off the perishable and be raised with an imperishable body. What a glorious passage! This is what Easter means to us!

Without taking a breath, Paul then continues, *"Now about the collection for God's people"* (1 Corinthians 16:1). To our minds these two themes don't fit together. Certainly, thoughts about the collection don't belong in an Easter message, do they? Paul thinks they do, and why not? First, how do we respond to such a great gift as our salvation? Since God has poured out on us the treasures of His grace, will we not want to make a tangible expression of thanksgiving? Second, with a dying world around us, will we not want to expedite the mission of the Church to spread the Gospel message? *"Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain"* (1 Corinthians 15:58).

--Bill Davis, Stewardship Chair



**WE HAVE NO INWARD MOTIVATION TO DO GOD'S WILL.
CHRIST ALONE IS OUR REASON FOR STEWARDSHIP.**

"He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him Who for their sake died and was raised"
(2 Corinthians 5:15).



STEWARDSHIP - Mission Support April Mission of the Month Wellspring Lutheran Services

Wellspring Lutheran Services engages people at every stage of life to help them discover and embrace their God given potential. Through these services, we will help change lives, build strong families and transform communities: • Adoption Resources • Affordable Housing • Assisted Living • Behavioral Health • Family Preservation • Foster Care • Home Care • Hospice & Grief Support • Independent Living • Memory Care • Parenting Support • Short-term Rehabilitation • Skilled Nursing Care • Supportive Housing

You can use a mission envelope that can be found in your envelope packet or pick one up from the ushers stand at the back of the sanctuary to support the "Mission of the Month". If you already support a mission, please continue to do so by designating that particular mission by name on a Mission envelope.

~ Bill Davis



A “By the Numbers” look at the *Here We Stand* Campaign (through March 9, 2020)

\$6,795,191.26 Total campaign gifts, pledges, and goals

\$6,501,000.10 Cash received which includes

\$500,000 CEF Matching Funds

\$232,510.94 Outstanding commitments (pledges)

1,451 Total Contributors

1,292 Individual Contributors

159 Congregations Contributing

44.1% % of Michigan District Congregations currently participating

12,901 Participants in the “Crafted By Truth” Bible Reading Program

2,093 Participants who have completed the Bible Reading Program

13,300 Attendees at the 500th Anniversary Worship Service at the Breslin Center

\$1,304,002.09 Total given/pledged for Professional Church Worker Scholarships

\$2,835,647.77 Total given/pledged for Innovative Missional Ministry

\$ 988,137.48 Total given/pledged for Michigan District Endowment

\$1,605,723.69 Total given/pledged for International Ministries

Flowers Used in Our Church

We appreciate having flowers in our worship services. They are a reminder of the beauty of our Lord’s creation and enhance our worship. We have members and those who attend our church that are sensitive to the pollen and smells that fresh flowers, both cut and planted, can bring into our sanctuary.



We are asking that any flowers provided for our worship services be picked up after the service when they are used. This includes the Easter flowers that will soon beautify our church, flowers given for worship services and at Christmas.

If you donate flowers for our worship services, please pick them up after the worship service. If you are not able to pick them up, please make arrangements for the flowers to be picked up. Flowers that have not been picked up after the worship service will be discarded.

If you wish to donate the flowers for those who are sick or shut-in, please indicate that when you order the flowers and attempts will be made to distribute the flowers.

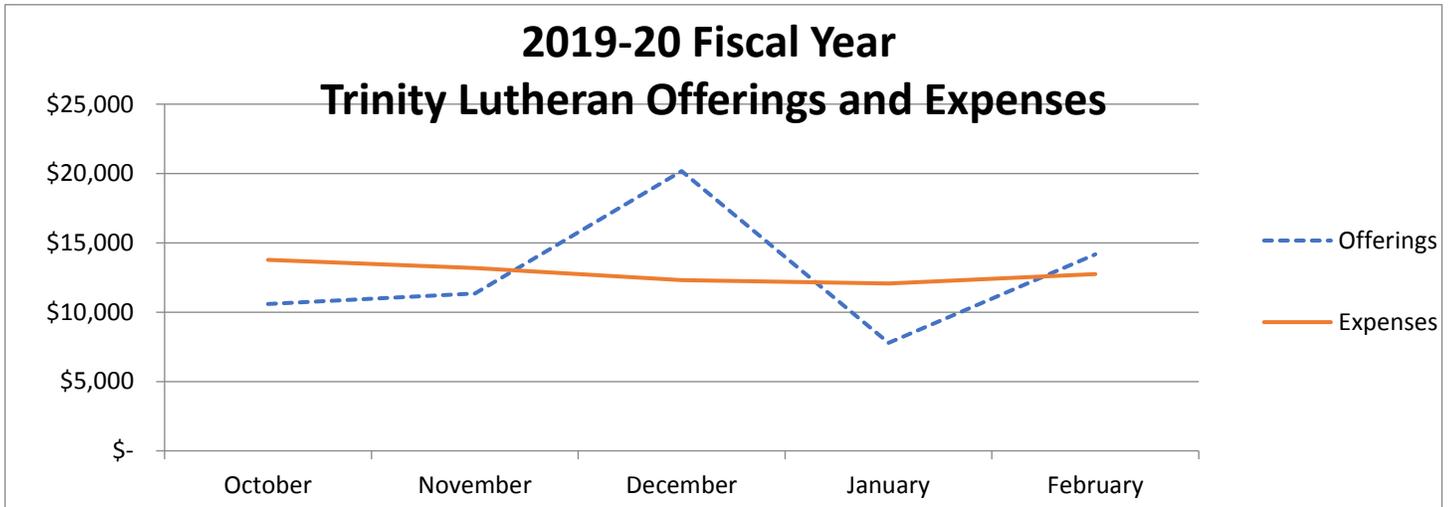
We thank you for donating flowers, we want you to enjoy them at home after the service.

Trinity Lutheran Church Offerings and Expenses

We thank you for your generous support for the work of the Lord here at Trinity.

Here is a brief look at our offerings and expenses for the first five months of our current fiscal year.

	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>2019-20</u>
Offerings	10,598.00	11,343.00	20,173.21	7,786.00	14,166.63	64,066.84
Expenses	13,772.48	13,172.02	12,307.52	12,067.25	12,755.72	64,074.99
Difference	(3,174.48)	(1,829.02)	7,865.69	(4,281.25)	1,410.91	(8.15)



BUILDING FUND – DOORS

We need to replace the two doors in the front of our church near the altar area. The doors have rusted and are difficult to open. This is a special concern since those doors provide emergency exit from the building. We have also found that the flashings were installed incorrectly which allowed water to enter areas around the doors. This leakage requires that masonry work be done.

We are fortunate that several people who worship at Trinity have taken the lead in evaluating the situation. They have obtained quotes for the replacement of the doors and necessary repairs. The current quotes indicate that the cost will be in excess of \$5,000.00. Volunteers will be doing some of the work.

This is work that can no longer be put off. \$750.00 was included in the current church budget for the replacement of the doors. However, this will not cover the total costs. We will need additional funds to complete the project.



Trinity Lutheran has a Building Fund, which is a restricted fund outside our operating budget. This fund is used to provide for unexpected expenses for the repair of our church building.

Please consider making a gift to the Building Fund to help pay for our new doors and needed repairs. Building fund envelopes are in the pew racks and there is an envelope with your offering envelopes. We appreciate your consideration to help in the repairs and maintenance of our building.

HOLY WEEK



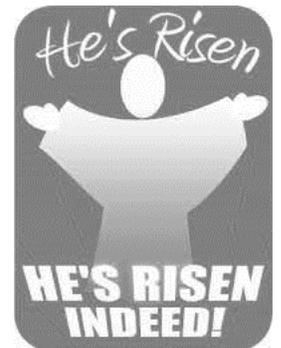
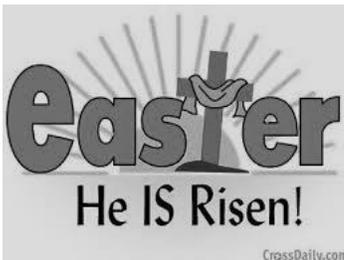
WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 5 – Palm Sunday, 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. – The Palm Tree

April 9 – Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m. – The Olive Tree

April 10 – Good Friday, 3:00 p.m. – The Tree of the Cross

April 12 – Easter Sunday, 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.– Have No Fear.



Two Worship Services Resume

Our regular worship schedule is scheduled to resume on Palm Sunday, April 5th with worship services at 8:00 a.m. and at 10:30 a.m.

Bible Study and Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

T.L.C.W. Garage Sale



As you clean, dust, wash, and polish your home, attic, closets, garage, and pole barns, keep in mind that the T.L.C.W.'s GARAGE SALE will be in June in Trinity's pole barn.

Set aside those unwanted but useable things you find for the GARAGE SALE. If you don't want that stuff – most likely someone will buy it at our GARAGE SALE. Your "trash" could be someone else's "treasure"!

GARDNERS WANTED!!

Trinity's gardens and plantings need seasonal cleaning, up-keep, re-vamping, planting, weeding, and trimming throughout the growing season. We are looking for volunteers to work in our gardens. There will be an informational/organizing meeting on Saturday, April 18th at Trinity.



Many hands make easy work!!

LWML



**April 2020 Michigan District Mission Grant Bulletin Bytes
#6 – New Beginnings for Children with Learning Needs
(Lutheran Special Education Ministries)
\$25,000**

April of each year is national "every kid healthy" month. Reflecting on being healthy often means temporary illnesses that, for most of us, are not serious. For some, there are long-term conditions that must be managed very carefully. We take this opportunity to focus on children with learning needs and the unique opportunities to share the gospel with them through the grant New Beginnings for Children with Learning Needs. For information on all grants, go to www.lwmlmichigan.org/. Under Missions, select Grants.

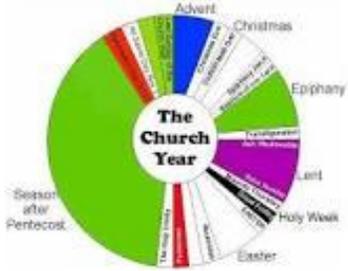
Reading, writing, and numbers and math – some love one, some hate it, some are apathetic. In Michigan, 13% of school-age youth are classified as special needs and need special attention to learn. For Christians, this can contribute to faith challenges – especially if we don't tailor the wonderful message God has give us to their needs.

Since 1873, Lutheran Special Education Ministries began working with orphans that were deaf. Today, the organization reaches out to address many such barriers, in and outside of Michigan as far north as Minnesota, west as California, and south as Florida and Arizona. Resources are available for Sunday School, VBS programs, and day schools to address conditions such as dyslexia as well as those of gifted students. The grant from the LWML Michigan District will fund five new programs for classroom assistance. What an opportunity!

Prayer: Dear Lord, please bless our mite offerings that support this grant that they may help reach out to those with special needs and help them to learn about You. In Jesus name, Amen.

Why Do We Do That?

Liturgical Colors



Color, like music, plays an important role in the life of God's worshiping people. Color allows us to see the Light of Life, Jesus Christ. It serves to communicate the message of salvation. And communicate it does when it reinforces a specific "colorful" chapter in the life of our Lord and His church, retold annually by the church calendar.

Color and its bright message can easily be taken for granted or mistaken in its purpose. The paraments, vestments, altar clothes, and banners traditionally employed each Sunday is as more than an attempt to decorate. Traditionally, five basic colors of a festive, penitential, and neutral nature have been used in most liturgical congregations. In recent times, with liturgical renewal, three additional colors (blue, scarlet, and gold) have been

added to the basic five of white, red, green, violet or purple, and black.

Blue is the more contemporary color increasingly used by many congregations in their observance of a new church year. Advent, a preparatory time of waiting and watching, communicates the message of hope. Blue, the color of the sky, helps convey that powerful message. Our Christian faith rests on the hope that Christ, who came in history assuming our flesh, will also return on the last day of time from that same blue sky He ascended long ago.

Green is by far the most common color seen during the year. Green is used during the seasons of Epiphany and Pentecost. Epiphany's message of Christ's revelation to the Gentiles along with the season's traditional emphasis on extending Christ's kingdom through missions, calls for the use of green – the color symbolic of growth. The Sundays following Pentecost, observed as "the time of the church," share a somewhat similar theme as that of Epiphany. Affectionately called the season of the "green meadow," no doubt due to the fact of green being the established color, these Sundays also emphasize the subject of growth. Green is a neutral color, but there is nothing colorless about our need to grow and mature as disciples of Jesus Christ. That's why the "green meadow" time of the church year is so lengthy.

Black is seen very seldom during the year. It is used only twice; on Good Friday and Ash Wednesday. Black is the absence of light. Good Friday, or Black Friday, in combination with Ash Wednesday, calls for sober reflection on the cost of our redemption. Without Christ's sacrifice on the day the sky turned dark and hid the light of the sun, there would be no bright Light of Christ to live in, nor new life in Christ to enjoy.

Gold is the optional color for Easter Sunday. It is also the suggested color for the last Sunday in the church year when that day is observed as Christ the King Sunday (LBW). Its use may not be popular yet, but its emphasis is undeniable. Gold represents value and worth. The golden festival of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the event that gives our lives meaning and worth. He is worthy of our praise as we adorn His altar with the color of splendor.

Scarlet (a vivid red, or orange) is called for use during Holy Week; from Palm Sunday to Maundy Thursday. It is a color worth investing in because it stands in contrast to the traditional red that is used on Festival Sundays. Scarlet's use during the somber days of Holy Week help to offer a different message. Scarlet is a color associated with the passion . . . the color of blood.

Purple, like black, is a penitential color, in contrast to a festive one. It is used during Lent and, still in many parishes, during the season of Advent. The forty days of Lent, including the six Sundays that fall during this season, use this deep, rich color which has come to represent somberness and solemnity, penitence, and prayer. Jesus, the king of the Jews, wore a purple robe only once. As the soldiers mocked and tormented Him, the Scriptures record they placed on Him a "purple garment" in order to ridicule Him and belittle the claim that He was a monarch. Purple is used during this penitential season of Lent as a vivid reminder of the contempt and scorn he endured, and the subsequent sacrifice he made for our eternal salvation.

White is the color of purity and completeness. The theme for the "great fifty days" of Easter is supported by the use of white. This color, used primarily during these Sundays, assists in bearing the message that "though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow." Christ's triumph from the grave on Resurrection day is the cause for our rejoicing. His purity before His Father becomes our purity. White reinforces that message of joy. In addition to its use during Eastertide, white is the appointed color for such festive Sundays as Christmas and its twelve days; Epiphany, and the first Sunday following it, observed as the Baptism of Our Lord; the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, also known as Transfiguration Sunday; Holy Trinity Sunday; and twenty-one minor festivals and occasions listed on the church year calendar.

Red is a power color and is used on Pentecost Sunday. On this day we remember the power and fire of "the Lord and Giver of Life," who revealed himself as the promised one. Red communicates strength – strength and power the Holy Spirit gives in order for God's people to call on the name of Jesus Christ and share that powerful name with others. There is no question that red is a compelling festive color. Additional uses of red are Reformation Sunday; Holy Cross Day, on such festive occasions as dedications, anniversaries of a congregation and its physical structure; festive days celebrating the office of the public ministry, such as ordination and installation.

The important thing to remember is why we retain this traditional liturgical standard. To serve God's worshipping community by assisting in communicating the holy faith from generation to generation. In every age, the beauty and symbolism of color in the church continues to serve us exceptionally well!

This information is taken from a "The Colors of the Liturgical Season by Rev. Douglas K. Escue



Chris Exnowski, Lorainne Boike, Jim Cain, Wayne Fortney, Tim Hoffmeyer,
Bill Ruckel, and David Thomas, Jr.

<p>Homebound: Alice Dettmer – medilodge Richard & Phyllis Fitzgerald</p>	<p>Military: Jason Cooper Courtney & Karina Pierce (Army) Marc Stiller (U.S.A.F. – Sherman) Nathan Boettge (Marines – Fortney)</p>
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Easter Flowers

Order your Easter Flowers today to beautify our church for He Is Risen! Flowers **MUST BE PICKED UP AFTER THE EASTER SERVICE** (names are on the bottom of the plants, please check to make sure that you do not take someone else's plant).

All orders must be turned in by Sunday, March 29, 2020.
Please check the color and number of plants you wish to purchase.
Make checks **payable to TLCW** and place in my mailbox.

Thank you,
Henrietta Fortney

In honor or memory of: _____

Your Name: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Check #: _____ Phone #: _____

Lilies - \$8.00 each	#	= \$	White
Tulips - \$8.00 each	#	= \$	Assorted colors
Daffodils - \$8.00 each	#	= \$	Assorted colors
Hyacinths – \$8.00 each	#	= \$	Assorted colors

***"The Lord Jesus Christ gave us the GREAT COMMISSION!
We need to all get involved with Evangelizing those around us
in our everyday lives, however we can."***

Who is my neighbor and why should I care? By Randy Johnson

"But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?'" (Luke 10:29).

In a world that has seemed to go off the deep end by not caring about others, the question "*Who is my neighbor?*" seems to be out of place. The world is saying to each of us: "*Take care of you and don't worry about the rest of humanity.*" This is a very scary thought, especially when Jesus tells us plainly that our neighbor is not just the person who lives on the same block as us but everyone in the world. So what does this statement mean to you and me?

Let's start off with the fact that we have the responsibility and the privilege to share some very important news with those around us. Yet, how do we share this valuable news with others? There are many ways to do this but not all have the best of results.

There is the *door-to-door salesman* technique. That type almost never works and, in a day and age when knocking on someone's door might get you hurt, it is probably not the way to go. If you look at statistics of each type of evangelism effort, you will find that door-to-door is one of the least effective ways to share the Gospel.

Then there is the type of evangelism I call *door-is-open evangelism*: "*The church's doors are open and they can come in any time they want!*" I have heard this come out of more than one parishioner's mouth and unfortunately I have also heard a pastor say it. Yes, that is very true, our doors are open, or at least appear to be open, to anyone. How many churches do you know that are growing with this type of evangelism? There are none that I am aware of.

So, what way *would* work the best? One of the most effective ways I know from experience is to make friends. This seems to be the most effective way to share your faith. Now, I want to be clear: It is not us who bring people to faith. Someone coming to faith is the work of the Holy Spirit through the means of grace. These means are the "*But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?'" (Luke 10:29).*

Word of God and the Sacraments. Yet, as the Scriptures say, "*How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!'" (Romans 10:14–15).* This Word of God is not only proclaimed from the pulpit in sermons but it is literally proclaimed as we go out into the world and speak of His truth with our neighbors whenever we share what God has done in our lives.

Taking the Word out of the church and into the community is needed as well. We—each one of us Christians—are needed to proclaim God's Word. We are the hands and feet of God on earth. Make no mistake that we are to be out in the world letting it know who Jesus is and what He has done for all who believe in Him. The greatest impact we can have for the spread of the Gospel is when we become friends with people and then, when the opportunity arises, to proclaim Jesus crucified and resurrected for all.

There are many programs that teach various styles of friendship evangelism. The LCMS has one called *Everyone a Witness*. Also, the book *Joining Jesus on His Mission* by Greg Finke has a lot of valuable information.

Friendship is the key to any of these programs working for you, but it must be a genuine friendship. If your only motivation to become someone's friend is so that they come to your church, or if you plan to drift away from them after they come to faith, then you need to rethink why are you becoming their friend and why are you sharing Jesus with them in the first place. Friendship with someone should be a lifelong commitment, just as Jesus made a lifelong—even more than that, eternal—commitment to all who believe in Him and walk in His ways.

We all have made friends throughout our lives. Some are lifelong friends and others are really only acquaintances, not true friends. You see, becoming a friend to someone means more than just discussing the weather or having a cool drink with them on a hot summer's day. True friendship shows up in your friend's life when they need you most. A friend is there for the one who is going through a difficult time. I think about a friend of mine who was going through the loss of his wife. She was killed in a car accident. He would wake up in the middle of the night crying and couldn't deal with the pain he was feeling. He would call me and talk to me on the phone at all times of the day or night. There were many times when I climbed out of bed, got dressed, and went over to his house and sat with him and listened to his pain. I lost many hours of sleep as he moved through this time of pain. But that's not what was important. What was important to him and to me was that we were friends and friends are there for friends in any circumstance. My friend was not a Christian. He

had heard about Jesus but never felt or believed that Jesus was for him. It took many visits in the middle of the night and many long conversations on many subjects before he ever got around to asking me why I believed in Jesus.

So we know that friendship evangelism is the most effective way of sharing Jesus. But why should I care about evangelism? Why should I worry? It is a pretty simple answer, but the follow-through is not that easy. The answer is in Matthew 28:18–20: “*And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’*”

Jesus calls all who believe in Him to make disciples. Yet, some fall into the category of “believing in Jesus but it is not my responsibility or privilege to proclaim the Gospel.” Those who want to believe but do nothing miss out on a great privilege—seeing someone come to faith in Jesus. Standing on the sidelines was not Paul’s way of doing things. Paul was in a race—a race of time, a race for life. The race of time was the time he had left on earth to proclaim the Gospel. The race for life was about all the people who would be lost if he did not proclaim the Gospel to them. It was a race he was compelled to run, not because of fear but because of love. Love for all people in his world.

Let us run that race the same way with love, not fear. Love for all people.

Randy Johnson serves as Assistant to the President – Congregation Mission and Ministries North Zone.

CONGREGATION TREASURER NEEDED

After serving you for six (6) years as Congregation Treasurer, and with my current term expiring 9/30/2020, I have notified Church Council that I will not stand for re-election to the Treasurer position starting 10/1/2020.

I have agreed to provide training and transition services to the new Treasurer to assure a smooth transition of responsibilities. This can start anytime. While this may necessarily stretch past 10/1/2020, I am happy to do this given the importance of this role. However, the goal is to have a new Treasurer identified as soon as possible and prior to the June 2020 Congregation Meeting when elections for new officers will be held.

This is an excellent opportunity for anyone willing to serve the work of the Lord and the Congregation to become involved in this key position. If you have any interest, knowledge of bookkeeping or financial management, please talk further with me or any Council member.

Regards,

Bradd Chisholm, Treasurer

email – bschisholm@trinityoscoda.org

Phone Number – (989) 525-6020

**CHRIST, WHO GAVE HIS LIFE FOR
US ON CALVARY’S CROSS, ENABLES
US TO LIVE LIVES OF SERVICE TO HIM.**

Jesus said, “...let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves” (Luke 22:26).



Currently the following positions of our congregation and Church Council are open or up for election at the June meeting:

**Vice President - Secretary - Treasurer - Financial Secretary
Chair of Parish Education - Chair of Social Ministry**

Please consider serving God and His Church. If you have any questions, please speak with Dave Wagner, Pastor Azzam, or a member of the Church Council.

happy birthday

- 4/1 Jonalee Engstrom
- 4/4 Adel Astala
- 4/5 Caroline Barrett
- 4/6 Beverly Cornel
- 4/6 Michael Dettmer
- 4/8 Judy Audritsh
- 4/8 Birgit Faught
- 4/9 Kathy Boschma
- 4/11 Tyler Tudor
- 4/12 Bea Scheffler
- 4/14 Bradd Chisholm
- 4/15 Bruce Welther
- 4/17 Lily Bilbey
- 4/17 David Stewart
- 4/20 Nancy Marshall
- 4/21 Nancy Perry
- 4/21 Irene Walentovic
- 4/22 Shirley Webber
- 4/26 Madison Schimmer
- 4/28 Susan Cooper
- 4/28 Anna Loyer
- 4/28 Pat Wright
- 4/30 Melina Ludeña
- 4/30 Lila Wetenhall

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 4/20 Joe & Linda Hock
- 4/21 Mitchell & Margaret Davis, Sr.

Elders		
April 5		
April 12	Communion	Mitch Davis
April 19		Charlie Rainey
April 26	Communion	

Ushers	
April 5	
April 12	
April 19	
April 26	

Know the Elders

The Board of Elders concerns itself with the wellbeing and spiritual life of our congregation and pastor. Pastor Azzam and your Elders are happy and eager to hear from you!

They may be reached at:

- Pastor Azzam - 739-4820
- Mitch Davis, Jr. - 989-820-1469
- Charlie Rainey - 724-6704
- Roger Tack - 989-293-8050
- Ron Weidenfeller - 724-7701
- Rodger Wenzel - 724-6800

Greeters	
April 5	
April 12	
April 19	
April 26	



We are in need of ushers starting in April. Please see Henrie or Wayne to sign up. It is not difficult, and you would serve approximately every six weeks.

We also need greeters to help welcome worshipers on Sunday mornings. It is a great way to get to know your fellow worshipers! There is a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

HUMOR



- 78% of the unchurched would listen to someone who shared what they believed about Christianity.
- There were four creatures sent as part of the 10 plagues against Egypt: frogs, lice, flies, and locusts.
- In the Bible, Jesus never told a disciple “I love you.” However, He showed them with His actions.



"Besides calling every Sunday 'Easter', does anyone else have ideas for improving church attendance?"

QUIZ

1. How did Jesus reveal the one who would betray him?
2. What is the common name given to the first four books of the New Testament?
3. On Good Friday, Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate for trial. Why did Pontius Pilate condemn Jesus to death?



NewsLetter DEADLINE

The deadline to submit articles for the May Newsletter is April 19, 2020.

- Answers to Quiz:
1. Dipped a piece of bread and passed it to him.
 2. The Gospels
 3. The chief priests had persuaded the crowd to demand his execution.