

# Trinity **SONRISE** News



*Trinity Lutheran Church*

*on the Sunrise Side of Michigan*

*2022*

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## **A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR AZZAM**

Dear Brothers and Sister in Christ,

I write to you in April for the May Newsletter. It is Easter Monday and snow, not rain, is expected...6 or more inches in the thumb. Every April I am reminded how atypical northern Michigan is when it comes to living up to the adage: When April showers come your way, they bring the flowers in the month of May. No crocus, no forsythia yet...

By the way, my Grandmother Carol, had about three riddles that she told every year. One was this one...If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring? Pilgrims! get it? This year happens to be the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pilgrims landing on Plymouth rock. A small celebration was had last fall in Plymouth, UK where the Puritan Pilgrims set off to live in a new land, hopefully free of the persecution they were experiencing under the Church of England of their day. Additionally, the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod will be celebrating the 175<sup>th</sup> year of its founding at an organizational meeting in Chicago, Illinois as the Evangelische Lutherisch Kirche von Missouri, Ohio, und oder Statten. (Illinois, Michigan and Indiana were some of the those “oder Statten.”)

The Saxon Lutherans were pilgrims who came by three sailing ships to New Orleans and then up the Mississippi to settle in Missouri, fleeing a similar religious persecution under the State Church of Saxony. The Ohio Lutherans, together with those from other states, were congregations founded by Bavarian Missionaries from Neuendettelsau who were deployed to the newly opened Northwest Territories following our own Civil War with the goal of bringing Christ to indigenous natives that were being displaced and the newly freed slaves.

Whether 500 or 175 years removed from their respective emigrations, all Christians regardless of their heritage, are still pilgrims. Like the children of Israel being led by God and Moses from slavery in Egypt to the land of Canaan, our journey is from the slavery of sin to freedom in Christ. This journey begins with our baptism and ends when the Lord opens heaven for all who believe in him. So, with our fellow Pilgrims, we sing:

Guide me O Thou great Jehovah, Pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak but Thou art Mighty, Hold me with Thy Powerful Hand.  
Bread of Heaven, feed me 'till I want no more.

Open now Thy crystal fountain, Where Thy healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fiery cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through.  
Strong Deliverer Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death and hell's Destruction, Land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises I will ever give to thee.

Yours in His Service,

Rev. Timothy Azzam

## In Honor of Pastor Azzam

We have had the privilege to serve under Pastor Azzam for almost 18 years. The members of Trinity have decided to honor him with two different celebrations.

A celebration in honor of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pastor's ordination will be held after the late service (11:30 a.m.) on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. This will be a catered meal in the fellowship hall. A Thrivent grant will cover the first \$250.00 of the caterer's charges. There will be no cost to you for the meal. We do ask that each member who attends bring a roll of paper towels, a package of toilet paper, or a box of Kleenex as a project for the local shelters. If you plan to attend, please RSVP (**required**) to Trinity Lutheran Church at 989-739-9292 on or before May 15, 2022.

In honor of Pastor's retirement, a potluck picnic will be held on July 10<sup>th</sup> (Pastor and Kathy's last Sunday with us.) This celebration will be held at:

Sue and Bruce Welther's house  
4533 East Clark Road  
Harrisville, MI

Please bring a dish to pass. An RSVP would be appreciated so that the Welthers know how many tables are needed.

Let us remember both celebrations and give Pastor and Kathy a wonderful send off from Trinity Lutheran Church.

We would like to give Pastor a monetary gift from the congregation on both occasions. If you would like to contribute, please put an envelope in the offering box indicating which celebration your contribution is for.

God Bless you all,  
The Celebration Committee

**AS GOD'S REDEEMED CHILDREN,  
WE ARE HIS STEWARDS BY HIS  
CALL AND THROUGH HIS GRACE.**

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.” (John 15:16).

**IN LOVE**  
**GOD**   
**CHOSE TO ADOPT**  
**US THROUGH**  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
Ephesians 1

# STEWARDSHIP

## Channels of God's Amazing Love

Because God is love, His nature is to love. Love is not merely an attribute of God; it is His character. *"God is love,"* (1 John 4:8), and His love to us is a gift. From the time that He created the world, God has never stopped pouring out His love. He gives us His complete and perfect love not because we are worthy or attractive people, but because He is a God of unfathomable love. That love moved Him to give His Son to rescue us from sin that entered the world when Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit. Out of obedience to His Father and love for us, Jesus gave His life for us. Through His birth, life, death, and resurrection from that death, we through faith have received the forgiveness of our sins and life eternal.

We often find it very difficult to love someone we believe does not deserve our love or who does not reciprocate our love. God's love overcomes those barriers that each of us has. He loves us even though we are unworthy of His love. He doesn't love us because we please Him. He loves us simply because He is love. His love is unconditional. This is the difference between God and us. Since *"God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8), we must realize that we, too, are undeserving. How can we withhold love from others when we ourselves have received such abundant, undeserved love from our Father in Christ?

God charges us to share His love. As the Holy Spirit leads and directs us, convicts and encourages us, the command to love others becomes a joy, not an obligation. It is God's love flowing through us to others that makes loving others natural and joyful. Throughout God's Word, He calls us to love everyone which includes not only our families and friends but our enemies, neighbors, and strangers. Jesus tells His disciples that, when they feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick and visit those in prison, they are really doing it for Jesus (Matthew 25:35-40). When we love our neighbors, God's love is perfected and shown in us and through us.

God's love to us in Christ is that power that enables us to love Him and others. *"We love because He first loved us"* (1 John 4:19). By God's grace, we become people responding out of love to serve those He places in our lives. When needs arise, Jesus opens our eyes and hearts so we can respond to those needs. The Apostle John wrote, *"But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God love abide in him?"* (1 John 3:17). Are others seeing God's love through us? May God help us all be channels of God's amazing love.

-Bill Davis, Stewardship Chair



### Mission of the Month P.O.B.L.O.

The mission of P.O.B.L.O. is to meet the physical, social, and spiritual needs of Muslims and other immigrants and refugees in the United States by sharing the love of Jesus in practical and culturally relevant ways.

P.O.B.L.O. International Ministries is a non-profit, Christian organization that is passionate about sharing the love of Jesus with Muslims and other immigrants and refugees living in the United States. Unlike in the past, American Christians do not have to go overseas to do mission work – the mission field yard. P.O.B.L.O. International Ministries is responding to this change in demographics and revolutionizing the way the gospel is shared by engaging in cross-cultural missions and grassroots community outreach here in the United States and training and partnering with local churches.

If you already support a mission, please continue to do so by designating that particular mission by name on a Mission envelope.



Dan Baumia, Wayne Fortney, and Ron Kaiser,



**Homebound:**

Alice Dettmer – Medilodge

**Military:**

Alex Anderson (Navy)  
Jason Cooper

## Worship Schedule



**Sundays**  
**8:00 a.m.**  
**and**  
**10:30 a.m.**

**Bible Study**  
**at 9:15 a.m.**



- Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m.
- Tuesday Morning Women’s Bible Study meets via Zoom. For more information call Ruth Golm at 989-724-5679.
- Tuesday Morning Men’s Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the church.
- Thursday Morning Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. – meets in-person in Sunday School wing.



### Spring Cleaning at Trinity

Outdoor spring cleaning at the church has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. We will be working to beautify the Lord’s gardens and grounds!



When you are getting your gardens ready for summer, please keep in mind that our memorial garden needs some flowering perennials that like shade. Any donations would be greatly appreciated



Indoor spring cleaning will be done individually by volunteers. A list of jobs that need to be done is posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. If you are able to help, pick the task you would like to do and sign your name by it. When the task is completed, just enter the date it was completed. The church is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 a.m. If you prefer to work at a different time, please contact someone on the Church Council to arrange to be let into the church.

## Trinity Bells of Glory



Did you ever wonder why handbell players wear gloves – it's because their hand oils tarnish the bells. Thanks to Dave Sherman, our handbells are polished weekly. Modern handbells made by bell foundries such as Schulmerich, Malmark and White Chapel are cast of a bronze alloy comprised of copper and tin. Handbells are remarkably fragile and may require reshaping if they are rung too forcibly.

## Confirmation 2022 Joshua and Matthew Abee

On Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> Joshua and Matthew Abee were confirmed into the Lutheran faith and received their first communion. Congratulations to these two fine young men and their family. A reception honoring Joshua and Matthew was held in the fellowship hall following the service.



## March 27<sup>th</sup> Presentation to Carol Wenzel

On Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup> Council President Ted White, Financial Secretary Karen White, and Pastor Azzam presented Carol Wenzel with gifts of appreciation for her service as parish nurse for Trinity Lutheran Church for 20 years.





## T.L.C.W. News

Trinity Lutheran Church Women (TLCW) meet the third Tuesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. All ladies are invited and encouraged to attend. The May meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.

TLCW is selling greeting cards in the fellowship hall for 50¢ each. Please put your money in the cash box on the display case.

## Community Garage Sale



It's that time of year again to be thinking about the TLCW Community Garage sale. While you are doing your spring cleaning, please consider what household items you wish to part with and SAVE them for Trinity's annual community garage sale. This year the sale will be held on Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup> and Saturday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Proceeds from the sale are returned to various community organizations. Items you wish to donate can be dropped off at the church garage on Tuesdays, June 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. If you have any questions, call Karen White at 989-739-0774 or Ruth Golm at 989-724-5679. Volunteers are needed to help with the sale. Volunteer signup sheets will be posted in June.

## Altar Guild Schedule for 2022



January – Sue Welther  
February – Jonalee Engstrom  
March – Teri Westburg  
April – Henrietta Fortney  
May – Sue Welther  
June – Carolyn Lindhorst

July – Teri Westburg  
August – Jonalee Engstrom  
September – Henrietta Fortney  
October – Teri Westburg  
November – Jonalee Engstrom  
December – Sue Welther

## Potluck and New Members and Friends Welcome

Pastor Azzam will be welcoming the following new members and friends on May 15<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 am. service:

Otto and Donna Alvarado  
Dave and Kathy Bence  
John and Cheryl Beyerlien  
Milton Clouse  
Sheryl Frink  
Tor and Rachel Imsland

Roy and Judy Michaelson  
Rev. Dennis and Barb Neigh  
Tom and Judy Neumeyer  
John and Janet Ovcjak  
Kay Ruckel

### A potluck in their honor will be held following the service



**May 15, 2022**  
**11:30 a.m.**  
**in the Fellowship Hall**  
**Please bring a dish to pass**

*In order to ensure that we have a variety  
of food, a signup sheet  
will be posted  
in the fellowship hall*



To the ladies for cleaning out the cabinets in the education wing

To Sue Pizarski for the centerpieces in the fellowship hall

To the Celebration Committee for their work in planning the celebrations for Pastor Azzam

To the member who made new banners for Lent and Easter

## Church Directory

We would like to update the church directory, and would appreciate a photo of you and/or your family for inclusion in the directory. You can email a photo to:

[churchoffice@trinityoscoda.org](mailto:churchoffice@trinityoscoda.org) or you can bring in a photo for us to scan.

Please check the list of names and phone numbers on the table next to the office door. Let us know if your information is incorrect. Your help is greatly appreciated. Thank you to members that have confirmed their information and submitted pictures.





- 5/2 Barrett Travis
- 5/4 Joan Abney
- 5/4 Mable Thomas
- 5/7 Gerald Abee
- 5/10 Dori Dopp
- 5/11 Kristine Ounan
- 5/14 Robert Toner
- 5/16 Neil Malson
- 5/19 Joyce Davis
- 5/20 Timothy Azzam
- 5/20 Melvin Spinney
- 5/20 Erica Wright
- 5/24 David Wright
- 5/25 Judy Hohf
- 5/30 Christopher Exnowski
- 5/31 Annette Dennis

- 5/15 George and Pat Wright
- 5/24 Wayne and Henrietta Fortney

### *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
- David Golm – 989-724-5679
- Roger Tack - 989-293-8050
- Ron Weidenfeller - 724-7701



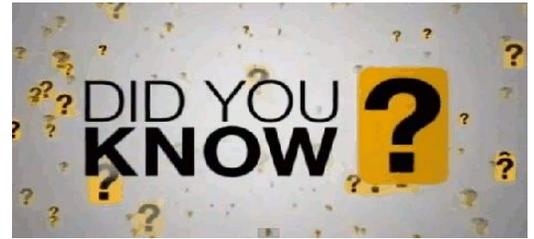
**Thursday  
May 12, 2022  
2:00 p.m.**



**Tuesday  
May 3, 2022  
2:00 p.m.**

# QUIZ

1. Which Gospel is written by a doctor?
2. What did God divide when he created the earth?
3. When was the Trinity revealed?

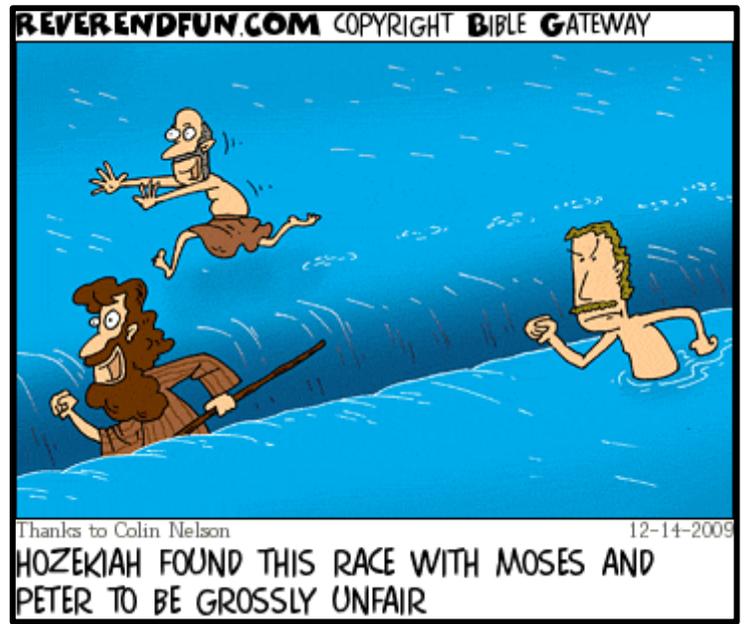


In any given year, no month ever begins or ends on the same day of the week as May does.

No U.S. president has ever died in the month of May. In every other month of the year, at least one U.S. president has died.

The Bible never truly describes what Jesus looked like. The only Bible verse that gives any indication of Jesus's appearance is Isaiah 53:2 "he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him."

## HUMOR



## DEADLINE

The deadline to submit articles for the June Newsletter is May 22, 2022.



- Answers to Quiz**
1. Luke
  2. The light from the darkness
  3. At Jesus' baptism