

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
201 S WASHINGTON ST
UNITY, WI 54488

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

201 S. Washington Street, Unity, WI 54488

Office Phone: 715-223-2155 • Email: secretary.trinityunity@gmail.com

Pastor Amy Heinz: 608-498-5772 • revamyheinz@gmail.com



2: Worship 10am In-person

9: Worship 10am In-person



16: Worship 10am In-person

18: Council Meeting 6:30pm

23: Worship 10am In-person

30: Worship 10am In-person



Dear friends in Christ,

*When justice is done, it is a joy to the righteous,
but dismay to evildoers. [Proverbs 25:15 NRSV]*

Just finished my first day of this year's synod assembly. The theme this year is *Justice and Joy*, taken from the Proverbs verse you see above. It's been two years since our synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has met (thank you, COVID-19), and for the first time ever, the whole thing is online. But even with the burden of attendees being in @300 different places during this meeting, it is somehow quite comforting to know that we are all still part of the body of Christ.

So what is justice, really? Merriam-Webster says justice is concerned with treating people fairly, but I would say that God takes justice one step further.

Our bishop, Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson, explored the concept of justice during this assembly using three Hebrew words:

Mishpat has to do with law and legality. When we keep the Ten Commandments honorably, we are in a right relationship with God.

Tsedekah is more closely related to charity. When we truly treat our neighbor with honor and compassion, we are in a right relationship with them.

Shalom is often translated as peace, but it is much more than

GOSPEL MESSAGE

May 30, 2021

THE HOLY TRINITY

Bring Your Questions

Although Nicodemus comes to Jesus claiming to know that Jesus comes from God, it is clear from the remainder of the conversation that he has deep questions on his heart. And after all of Jesus' talk of being born of water and Spirit Nicodemus almost pleads: "How can these things be?" (John 3:9).

What questions do you bring to worship with you today?

As we gather around the baptismal font, we do so with Luther's reminder that "daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever" (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 1165). We too might ask, "How can these things be?" Does today feel like a new day of righteousness and purity? Does today feel any different than yesterday or the day before? Sometimes the answer is yes, but often it does not seem there is anything "new" about any given day.

Throughout the gospels we hear about people's responses to their encounters with Jesus. They go away healed and rejoicing, grieving or angry. We get no such exit with Nicodemus. Jesus speaks about God's love for the world and is soon on the move again. What happened to Nicodemus? He will reappear in the seventh chapter of John, defending Jesus as the leaders wonder why Jesus has not been arrested, and in the nineteenth chapter to help lay Jesus in the tomb. In both cases today's encounter with Jesus is remembered. It seems that Nicodemus's questions and his struggle to understand are the beginning of a slow reshaping of his life.

Bring your questions to the water today. Bring your questions again and again. Dip your hands in the water; mark yourself with the cross; know that the water and the Spirit will reshape you in ways you may not understand today but will certainly remember in later chapters of life.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

May 23, 2021

DAY OF PENTECOST

This Changes Everything

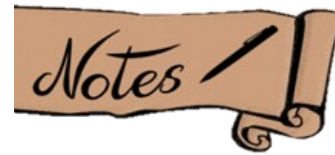
On Pentecost, we celebrate the fulfillment of Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit to dwell in us and guide us, bringing understanding and unity. However, for those present for the events described in the reading from Acts, in which the Holy Spirit descended and rested upon them, celebration wasn't exactly what those gathered were thinking about. *Terror* might be a more appropriate word. *Shock*, perhaps. *Mystery*. It felt like anything but a celebration; it was disruptive and frightening! After such an experience, your life is changed forever. Once you have lived through something so monumental, you are never the same.

And that is the point. That is why we celebrate. Because on this day, the church was born. On this day the apostles—students of an itinerant rabbi who had taught his followers for only a few years—were filled with the Holy Spirit, turned upside down and inside out, changed utterly. On this day, not only the apostles but also three thousand others (Acts 2:41) were filled with the Spirit that transforms us and enables us to see others as our siblings in Christ. Often, the aftermath of crisis makes strangers into friends.

Several thousand people who had been turned inward, thinking of themselves, their needs, and their concerns, were made a community, turned outward, thinking of their relationships, their neighbors, and the needs and concerns of others. “When the Spirit of truth comes,” Jesus had said, “he will guide you into all the truth” (John 16:13). The Holy Spirit, blowing through a diverse group, signals a formation of community, a binding together to make a new way of living. And this is what God showed the apostles, the others gathered in that room, and the several thousand who were baptized: when the Holy Spirit blows into your life, nothing is ever the same. And that's a cause for celebration.

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a cessation of violence. When our actions speak “peace” on behalf of all that God has made—building up rather than tearing down—we are in a right relationship with all of creation.

Justice, then, is a much broader concept than a simple matter of legality. Justice means leveling the playing field, viewing the commandments as prescriptive rather than restrictive, standing up against violence and bullying on local and national and international levels, learning respectful ways to discuss difficult topics, and speaking and acting with humility rather than hubris.

Justice, then, also includes admitting when we're wrong, taking responsibility for our own part in wrongdoing (even when unintentional or a by-product of a weighted system), offering to make amends, and fervently doing our utmost to change.

Now, we all know that we are incapable of acting and thinking this way, perfectly, all the time, as much as we would want to. And that's where joy comes in. Thanks be to God who offers the divine in our place and sends the Holy Spirit to “help us in our weakness.” [Rom 8:26] Then the joy found in our Christian freedom can be loosed upon the world, bringing true justice and *shalom* to all of God's creation.

In His Service,

Pastor Amy



Treasurer Report

1st Quarter Financial Update:

Trinity's checkbook balance on Jan. 1, 2021 was \$7,691.91.

We had expenses of \$17,609.68 and income of \$15,296.99 in the first quarter of 2021.

This leaves us with a balance on March 31, 2021 of \$5,379.22, or in other words, we were a little over two thousand dollars short of meeting expenses during the first three months of the year.

Thank you for your continued support!
Doug Newman, Treasurer

GOSPEL MESSAGE

May 16, 2021

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Power of Prayer

Here in the Gospel of John, at the close of Jesus' final speech to his disciples before he is arrested and crucified, he engages in a remarkable, even visceral act of love. He prays for his disciples.

When we pray, God already knows, of course, what is on our hearts. We are not bringing God any new information. But when we pray, we bring ourselves uniquely into God's presence. In prayer, we bring to God our deepest and most intimate needs, and we make ourselves vulnerable in a way we seldom allow in day-to-day life. This vulnerability is what strengthens our relationship with God, as any repeated physical actions strengthen our muscles. But prayer is not only for our own needs. Unexpectedly perhaps, it is intercessory prayer that nourishes us like nothing else. When we petition God on behalf of another person, we go outside ourselves, becoming other-focused in the way Jesus so fervently invites us to be in his own prayer in today's gospel passage.

In this moment so close to the end of his life, Jesus prays not for himself but for his disciples, whom he loves: "Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. . . . But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves" (John 17:11, 13).

How extraordinarily powerful it is to hear someone pray for you! As Jesus prepares to send his disciples out to preach and teach and baptize in his name, he equips them with the tool that strengthens our every act: he prays. He names them, along with his gratitude and his concerns, before God. That is a gift the disciples will be able to carry with them wherever they go.

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GOSPEL MESSAGE

May 9, 2021

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Eternal, Unconditional, and Unchanging

To abide is to put down roots: to dwell in the same location and with the same people for the long term. Unlike in Jesus' time, today few of us live in the same place in which we were born. Families are routinely scattered across the country and around the world. Yet Jesus invites us, "Abide in my love" (John 15:9). While so much else in our lives seems impermanent, Jesus' love is eternal, unconditional, and unchanging.

In today's gospel, Jesus is on his way to the cross. Pressed for time and filled with urgency, he can convey only the most important message. Of all the subjects he has explored during his ministry, he chooses to emphasize that which matters most: his own love. Jesus knows that love is eternal, that it transcends death and the grave. He knows that love is essential, that it must be at the core of our being. He knows that love is the embodiment of all his teachings, healings, and ministry.

Jesus knows that Judas has already betrayed him. He knows that shortly, Peter will deny him. In preaching love, he shows us that the sort of love he has for each of us is stronger than our own very human shortcomings—and that his love for us, and for his disciples, is forever. As followers of Jesus, we are charged with loving one another with the unconditional, eternal love that he has for us. In a world of change, such a responsibility is challenging, yet living out that challenge is what gives our lives purpose.

The secret to love is that it puts others first. Love is the only emotion that can defeat our instinctive self-centeredness. In charging us to love one another, Jesus issues an invitation to be awake and aware, to see others as beloved children of God, and to reflect divine love back onto everyone we encounter. In this way, Jesus lives in each of us.

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Join us LIVE on Facebook

(Trinity Lutheran Unity WI)

(Our Saviour's Lutheran Holway)

each Sunday at 11:30am

The order of worship is in the pages that follow as well as a gospel message for each week in May.

VANCO
FAITH

Our online giving platform...

Please visit our Facebook page,

Trinity Lutheran Unity WI

and click the blue

 Use App

button near the top of the page to go directly to the giving platform.

Questions? Contact Pastor Amy



Happy Anniversary

23—Deborah & Roger Reise
29—Sarah & Shane Steen
29—Steve & Karen Brown

6—Jacob Raatz
7—Ron Brost
8—Lester Bainer
10—Patsy Schuh
11—Marilyn Brost
12—Janet Block
14—Nathan Jensen
16—Geraldine Jeske
17—Lexi Krebsbach
22—Kathy Mertens
24—Kaye Jeske

Please continue to spread the word....

Our food pantry has and will continue to remain open during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you know of anyone in need, please have them visit the pantry on Wednesdays from 5:30-7pm. Contact Cindy or Joe if there is an immediate need and they will gladly help! We are looking for adults to help work the pantry on Wednesday evenings. Please contact Cindy, Joe, Doug or Jennifer if you'd like to help out!



***We received a \$1,500 grant to purchase another stand up freezer and will use the remaining money to purchase personal hygiene items**

GOSPEL MESSAGE

May 2, 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

We Are the Branches

To encourage flowering and fruit production in vines, trees, and shrubs, most of us know that pruning is necessary. This isn't the easiest of work, nor does it make the pruned plant look all that great for a while afterward. Yet often what results after pruning is a plant that is more abundant, beautiful, and healthy than it would have been otherwise.

In our reading today, Jesus makes it very clear that he is the vine, his Father is the vine grower, and we, his disciples, are the branches on which fruit grows. Without the vine and the vine grower, the branches do not exist. Yet, often in our spiritual lives it seems as though we get these roles mixed up. We are wooed by the sense of accomplishment and value that comes from producing results of one kind or another, and we fail to acknowledge the source that makes that "fruit" possible.

However, in today's gospel, Jesus reminds us that our job isn't to produce results; it's to stay connected. "Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing," Jesus says (John 15:5). Jesus is our source and strength; it is only by our connection to Jesus the vine that we the branches bear fruit that will last, such as love, compassion, forgiveness, hope, service, kindness, and patience.

To grow this kind of fruit, Jesus relates how necessary it is for us to be pruned occasionally. In other words, those things that are not of God in our lives have to be rooted out from time to time. The process of pruning isn't always the most enjoyable and can even include a good deal of pain, but it leads to lives that are whole and abundant. As we abide in Jesus, we are given the strength we need to endure the pruning process. We also experience the peace that comes from knowing that the fruit that will follow is for the glory of God.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

BLESSING

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

May Worship Assistants					
Date	Usher/Greeter	Lay Reader	Communion Assistant		
May 2	Kelsey Wussow		Kelsey Wussow		
May 9	Kelsey Wussow		Kelsey Wussow		
May 16	Kelsey Wussow		Kelsey Wussow		
May 23	Kelsey Wussow		Kelsey Wussow		
May 30	Kelsey Wussow		Kelsey Wussow		

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ,
**for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.** We bless you, risen Christ,
**that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.**

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.

Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.

Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ.

Cleanse our hearts.

Shower us with life.

**To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God,
now and forever.**

Amen.

OPENING SONG

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY/ SCRIPTURE READINGS

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.

Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.

Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;

for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

Amen.