



# Trinity Today

Vol. 22, No. 2

February 1, 2020

**FEB  
9  
2020  
2:30PM**

## TRINITY CONCERT SERIES

FEATURING

**DANIEL FICARRI**

ORGANIST & COMPOSER

with

RANDY BOATRIGHT, NARRATOR



The Trinity Concert Series presents organist, Daniel Ficarrri in concert Sunday, February 9, at 2:30 pm. A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Ficarrri is a rising organist and composer from New York City who is currently studying with Paul Jacobs at the Juilliard School. He is recognized as a performer of both new music and the standard classical repertoire. This concert will feature works by Bach, Grieg, Pärt, Copland, Messiaen, Durufle plus an original composition by Ficarrri himself. Join us for an afternoon of great music that features an extremely talented young, new artist on Trinity's wonderful 50-rank pipe organ.

**FREE ADMISSION**

Freewill Offering  
Appreciated

# LENT AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday - Red Letter Challenge	February 26	Noon & 6:30 PM (C) (Imposition of Ashes)
Red Letter Challenge	February 29	5:00 PM
	March 1	8:15 & 10:50 AM (C)
Midweek 2 - Red Letter Challenge	March 4	Noon & 6:30 PM (C)
Red Letter Challenge	March 7	5:00 PM (C)
	March 8	8:15 & 10:50 AM
Midweek 3 - Red Letter Challenge	March 11	Noon & 6:30 PM (C)
Red Letter Challenge	March 14	5:00 PM
	March 15	8:15 & 10:50 AM (C)
Midweek 4 - Red Letter Challenge	March 18	Noon & 6:30 PM (C)
Red Letter Challenge	March 21	5:00 PM (C)
	March 22	8:15 & 10:50 AM
Midweek 5 - Red Letter Challenge	March 25	Noon & 6:30 PM (C)
Red Letter Challenge	March 28	5:00 PM
	March 29	8:15 & 10:50 AM (C)
Midweek 6 - Red Letter Challenge	April 1	Noon & 6:30 PM (C)
Palm Sunday	April 4	5:00 PM
	April 5	8:15 & 10:50 AM (C)
Maundy Thursday	April 9	Noon (C) 6:30 PM (C) (Seder Dinner/First Communion)
Good Friday	April 10	Noon
	April 10	6:30 PM (Tenebrae Service)
Easter Satellite	April 11	5:00 PM (C)
Easter Sunrise	April 12	6:30 AM (C)
Easter Festival	April 12	8:15 & 10:50 AM (C)

# Red Letter Challenge

Many churches across the world include the season of Lent in their annual church calendar. Lent begins six Sundays before Easter and starts on Ash Wednesday (February 26<sup>th</sup>). The purpose of Lent is to prepare our hearts for the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Therefore, in Lent, you are encouraged to look at two people: Jesus and yourself.

You are to look to Jesus to remember what He's done for you and the life that He gave for you. And in light of that, you are to look to yourself, and to remember why He had to give His life, namely, for the payment of your sins. Lent is a time to self-examine and ask what in my life needs to change today. How do I live as a more effective follower of Jesus?

The problem is that there are people who don't know how to follow Jesus and frankly, all of us can use a following tune-up. That's what the Red Letter Challenge (RLC) is intended to do. Over the 40 days

of Lent, RLC will introduce the five principles that were most important to Jesus: Being, Forgiving, Serving, Giving, and Going. RLC focuses on Jesus' words, the ones that are written in red letters in your Bibles, and suggests ways to put them into practice.

Everyone at Trinity Downtown will be encouraged to participate in the Red Letter Challenge. All the worship services during Lent will focus on RLC. Devotional books for this Lenten series are available and you are encouraged to use them. The Red Letter Challenge books by Rev. Zach Zehnder (LCMS pastor) will be available at Trinity Downtown in mid-February with a suggested \$5 donation to support the cost of materials. There will also be a special RLC Bible study on Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the Gym.

RLC will be introduced in our weekend services on February 22/23. This Lent, join the Red Letter Challenge!



## Thank You From Chelsea

Dear Members of Trinity Lutheran Downtown, Houston,

Thank you so much for your generous gift towards the support of the Lord's work in the Czech Republic. As I have been living in Bohumin for about two weeks, I can already see God working. I have attended the weekly youth group, and visited two schools for children with intellectual disabilities with my Pastor. We will be starting English conversation classes at church in February. Please pray for me as I continue to build relationships and disciple God's people in Bohumin.

God's blessings,  
Chelsea



# Finance Corner

*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will hear you.*

Jeremiah 29:11-12 ESV

God has given Trinity Downtown a unique community to serve; Houston's economy is strong and the neighborhoods around Trinity are filled with new homes and a vibrant arts culture. That said, we have plenty of challenges. Surveys tell us that many of our neighbors look at our Christian faith (and any organized religion) with skepticism, and Christian churches across the country are facing declining attendance. In one sense, this makes our job harder. On the other hand, each person's need to hear the Gospel is undiminished, and our mission is unchanged---providing a safe and mutually-supportive atmosphere for mature Christians while intentionally building attractive "on-ramps" for those who have not had any exposure to the grace of Christ and His teachings.

**Your tithes and offerings play a direct role in supporting what God is doing through us.** Here are a few highlights from 2019 from a financial perspective:

- **Offerings exceeded plan.** Due to your generosity, our 2019 tithes and offerings exceeded the annual budget by over \$215k (or 12%) and were 8% higher than in 2018! Your generosity has put Trinity in a stronger financial position than we have had for at least a decade.
- **Continued debt reduction.** During 2019, generous giving allowed us to completely pay off our organ refurbishment note, reduce our operational debt by over \$185k from \$660k to \$462k, completely rebuilt our emergency fund, and set aside \$40k for a fund that will be used for capital equipment and facility maintenance.
- **Cooling Tower Replacement.** Due to the generosity of the Ladies Circle Ministries, we were able to completely pay for the replacement of our Christian Life Center cooling tower. This large investment by the Ladies Circle will keep us cool for (God willing) another 20 years!

God has strategically placed Trinity Downtown's ministry in a burgeoning area of Houston, where new housing and entertainment opportunities are drawing more families to work, play and live. The field is, indeed, ripe for harvest. I'm excited to see what God has in store for us in 2020!

In His Service and yours,

Ron Lacy  
CFO





# ALPHA

explore life. faith. meaning.

Who Will You Invite?

Alpha is a great place to invite people to explore faith and discuss the big questions of life. Each Alpha includes a free meal, a video talk on a topic from the Christian perspective, and conversation in small groups where everyone is encouraged to share their own perspective. No question or comment is off limits and everyone is able to share as much or as little as they'd like.

## Alpha is for...

- > People who are wrestling with life's biggest questions: *Does God exist?* or *Why are we here?*
- > People skeptical of faith, but open to having conversations with other folks who have different worldviews.
- > People who have been Christian for a while, but still are unsure about parts of the faith.
- > People who are new Christians looking to learn the basics of the Christian faith.

If you don't match any of these groups, consider inviting someone you know who does. You can even come along with them. If you or someone you know is interested in participating in Alpha, the dates and times are as follows:

**Mondays, Beginning February 3, 6:00PM - 7:30PM**  
**Hosted by Trinity Downtown at Upbring School**

Registration: <https://www.trinitydt.org/alpha/>



# Upcoming Musical Events at Trinity Downtown

## Organist Daniel Ficarri, February 9, 2:30 p.m.

See front page.

## Casulana, the Women's Choir of Houston, March 1, 2:30 p.m.

Trinity is pleased to host Casulana, the new Women's Choir of Houston, in its inaugural concert on Sunday, March 1, 2020, at 2:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. The mission of this new group, founded



by Janwin Overstreet-Goode and Neena Taylor, is to celebrate the female voice and its power to inspire and culturally enrich the lives of audiences and participants through artistic and educational programs that present high-quality choral music.

The first concert, *The Winds of Spring*, features repertoire with spring texts and spring-related topics. Music by Claude Debussy, Eleanor Daley, Randall Thompson, William Mathias, and Craig Hella Johnson are included in the program. Area high school students will be invited to participate in the TMEA All-State audition piece, "Salut Printemps" which will open the second half of the program.

Casulana is another group who calls Trinity home for their rehearsals. According to Mary Voigt, Trinity's Director of Worship and Music, "I listened to part of one of the Casulana rehearsals and I believe they will quickly become one of the premier choral groups in Houston. This is going to be a fabulous concert that you don't want to miss."



## St. Paul Lutheran High School Choir, March 8, 10:50 a.m. Worship Service

The St. Paul Lutheran High School Choir, Concordia, Missouri, is on tour in March and will be singing for Trinity's 10:50 a.m. worship service on March 8. Stay tuned for more information.

## Organist, Chelsea Chen, Sunday, March 22 at 2:30 p.m.

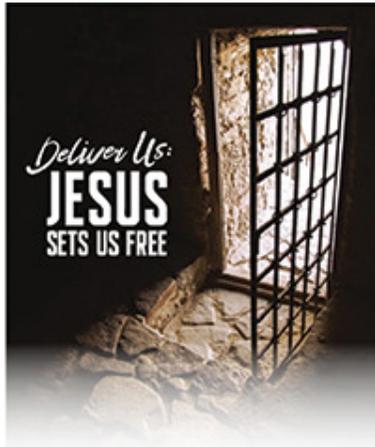


With organ playing described as "stunning" and possessing "lovely lyrical grandeur" (*Los Angeles Times*), Chelsea Chen has electrified audiences throughout the United States and Asia. A Fulbright scholar and a graduate of Juilliard and Yale University, she has performed to great acclaim at many important venues throughout the world. The Trinity Concert Series is very excited to add Chelsea Chen to the list of great artists who are presenting concerts on our wonderful pipe organ. Save the date now for this upcoming concert.

Happy Valentine's Day - February 14



# Lenten Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries



DEVOTIONS  
Lent 2020

Every Lenten season, we reflect on God's work on our behalf through the telling of Christ's Passion. In *Deliver Us: Jesus Sets Us Free*, we remember our Savior's triumphal act of redemption in Israel's exodus from captivity in Egypt. Just as Moses led Israel to the Promised Land, Jesus won victory for us through His life, death, and resurrection. In both events, God saves His people. But, through Jesus, God saves completely.

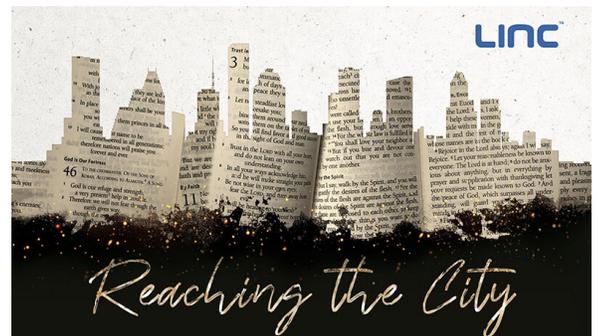
Since creation, God has been setting us free. From Adam and Eve's transgression to Israel's slavery in Egypt to mankind's bondage to sin and death, God liberates the captive! In *Deliver Us: Jesus Sets Us Free*, you'll see God's love in action—working His purposes through human affairs, drawing us into a relationship with Him. Even as Moses (a kind of redeemer) foreshadowed the work of Christ (our ultimate Redeemer), we remember with awe and humility the pains God took to win us back to Himself, sparing not His only Son.

Printed copies of the devotion booklet will be available February 23. You may also view the devotions online at <https://www.lhm.org/lent/>.

## 2020 LINC Houston Reaching the City Gala

LINC Houston looks forward to having you join them on March 1 at their 2020 Reaching the City Gala to be part of advancing the Gospel in the city of Houston!

The evening will include live music, silent auction, open bar, and dinner. Most importantly, guests will hear about how LINC is empowering local ministry heroes that are impacting their communities through the Gospel. Guests will have an opportunity to financially partner with LINC Houston to see this Gospel work continue and expand!



For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit [linchouston.org/gala](http://linchouston.org/gala).

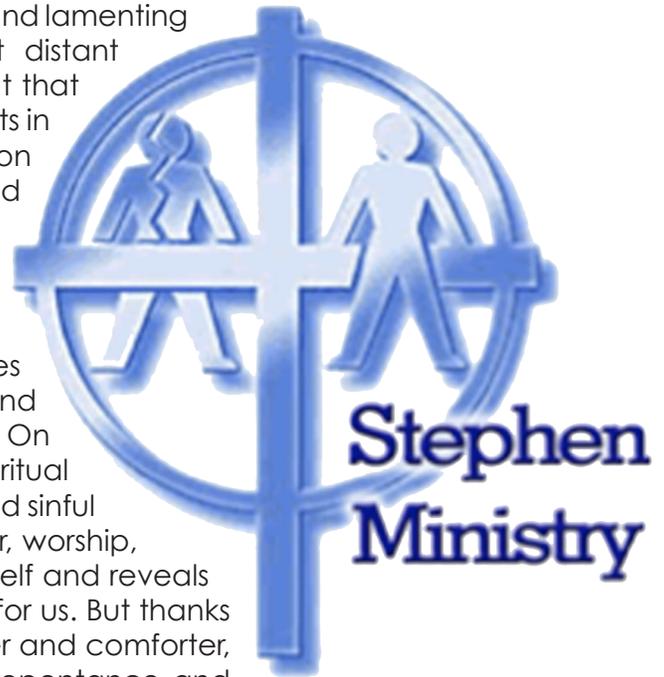
## Trinity's Ministry to HPD and HFD Continues to Grow!

On the last Sunday of every month, folks from Trinity will collect baked goodies for Pastor Hofmann to deliver to our police officer neighbors at the Central Division and to our adopted fire station, Station 8 Downtown. If you would like to contribute as well, seek out Pastor Hofmann ([mhofmann@trinitydt.org](mailto:mhofmann@trinitydt.org)) and/or Ann Gunn ([gunn4@comcast.net](mailto:gunn4@comcast.net)). Bring your baked goods to church with you and we will collect them in the foyer/Welcome Center.



# Celebrating Discipline?

As we start February, many of us may be looking back and lamenting that the resolutions we made in January are just distant memories. We all want to be better, to do better—but that can be so difficult to maintain as the busyness of life gets in the way. I would suspect that spiritual resolutions were on your list of self improvement tasks; perhaps you decided that 2020 was going to be your year to read the Bible more, or buckle down and pray more consistently, or attend church more regularly; but our own sinful flesh and the responsibilities of this life soon chip away our resolve and we find ourselves in the same places we've always been. It's easy to get discouraged and talk ourselves out of these important spiritual practices. On our own, we will never be able to live up to these spiritual resolutions and goals. The devil uses our own desires and sinful nature against us to keep us from God's Word, prayer, worship, and anything else where God draws us closer to Himself and reveals His trustworthy character and depth of His great love for us. But thanks be to God who gives us the Holy Spirit to be our helper and comforter, who works in our hearts and minds to draw us into repentance and back into a right relationship with our heavenly Father.



Trinity Stephen Ministers would like to offer the congregation an opportunity to join us as we spend the spring semester examining *Celebration of Discipline* by Robert Foster for our continuing education. We thought this would be the perfect time to look at ways we might keep our resolutions, but also look forward to the self-examination that comes during the Lenten season. We will be going through this book to examine spiritual practices such as prayer, fasting, Bible study, solitude, service, confession and worship. Specifically we'll be looking at how these historical and timeless disciplines of both Biblical times and the early church can help the Holy Spirit to work in our lives and draw us closer to God. We have plenty of copies of the book and would be more than glad for you to have one! Unlike many plans for a healthier you, this one has no contract and no sign up fee. Joining us for this study has no obligations to become a Stephen Minister—we just want to serve the members of Trinity by inviting you on this journey to spiritual growth and development. The sessions will be mostly independent of each other, so even if you can only make it to one or two, you will still gain something!

## Schedule of Sessions

(Each session starts with a meal at 6 p.m. and study from 6:30-7:30 p.m.)

### Introduction

February 18 Introduction to the Book

### The Inward Disciplines - Catalyst for Self-Examination and Change

March 3 Meditation and Prayer

March 17 Fasting and Bible Study

### The Outward Disciplines - Prepare Us to Love Our Neighbor as Ourselves

April 7 No Class (Holy Week)

April 21 Simplicity and Solitude

May 5 Submission and Service

### The Corporate Disciplines - Draw Us Closer to Others and God

May 19 Confession, Worship, Guidance, Celebration

# Lutheran Braille Workers Seeking New Leader

Lutheran Braille Workers is the largest Christian ministry in the world that provides Braille and specialized Large Print Bibles free of charge for people who are blind or visually impaired. Thanks to an army of volunteers and thousands of generous partners who financially support this ministry, Lutheran Braille Workers is able to get the Word of God into the hands of people who are blind or visually impaired at no expense to them. In spite of all the new technology, Braille Bibles are still in demand.



Some of you may know and some of you may not know that Houston is one of the many cities where Lutheran Braille Workers is hard at work. For over 50 years, Puddin' Krueger has been leading this ministry forward. Now, due to health reasons, Puddin' is having to step down.

There are already a group of women who have been volunteering. They meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month at Concordia Lutheran Church, 4115 Blalock Road (at Clay). And, they have a lot of fun!

We need a leader - a point person that Lutheran Braille Workers can contact and who will call the ladies and remind them a couple days ahead—the names and phone numbers will be provided to you.

Please prayerfully consider this ministry. It would be sad if Puddin's legacy of over 50 years faded away and Lutheran Braille Workers had to close their Houston office.

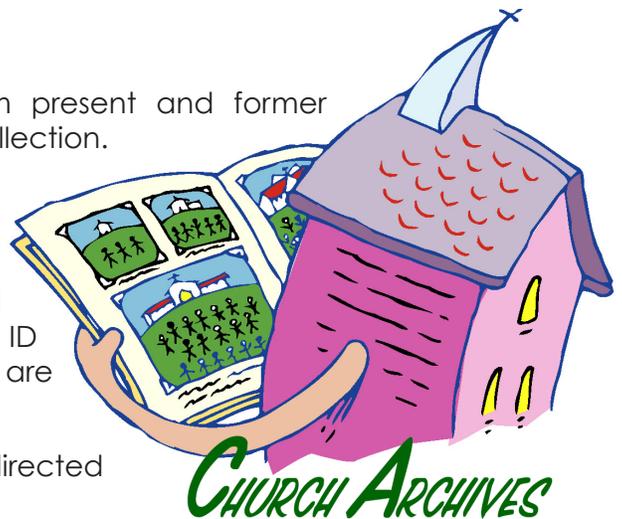
Please call Jan Case 713.677.4286 or email [jcase001@gmail.com](mailto:jcase001@gmail.com) if you can fulfill this vital ministry.

## Trinity's Archives

Trinity's Archives has received recent donations from present and former members for permanent preservation in the Archives Collection.

Donations from Martha Gehring, Lil and Melvin Hohle, Gay Shackelford, James Suchma and anonymous donors included historic photos, directories, special service folders, newspaper articles and memorabilia. Special thanks to Dan Brockermeier and Anthony Bacarisse for ID of student photographs. All donations to Trinity's Archives are valued and appreciated.

Any questions regarding the Archives Collection can be directed to Ruth Stoerkel at [fws1pub@earthlink.net](mailto:fws1pub@earthlink.net).



## Trinity Foyer Display

In recent months, Trinity members and guests have enjoyed displays of personal collections of Trinity's members. Displays included "Dolphins" by Shawn Ullmann; "Take Care of the Youth" by Brooke Abby; "140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary" by Ruth Stoerkel and the archives collection; and "The Nativity" by Brooke Darling Abby.

We welcome displays of special collections. To schedule a display, please contact Ruth Stoerkel at [fws1pub@earthlink.net](mailto:fws1pub@earthlink.net).



## A 40 DAY LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE

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THE RED LETTER CHALLENGE IS A 40-DAY CHURCH CAMPAIGN  
THAT WILL PRODUCE LIFE-CHANGING RESULTS

**EXPERIENCE IT FOR YOURSELF!**

## MIDDLE SCHOOL NEW YEAR/SPRING SCHEDULE

- **Feb 9<sup>th</sup>:** Nerf Wars!
- **Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Servant event making care packages for the homeless.
- **March 8<sup>th</sup>:** Screamo!
- **March 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Service project for first responders.
- **April 26<sup>th</sup>:** Escape Room at Trinity.
- **June 8<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup>:** Middle School Mission Trip with Trinity Klein.

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## HIGH SCHOOL NEW YEAR/SPRING SCHEDULE

*Youth Group every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of the month unless further notified.*

- *1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month at the Winckler household, 1700 Seaspray Ct., Houston, TX 77008.*
- **Feb 15<sup>th</sup>:** Making care packages for the homeless
- **March 7<sup>th</sup>:** Service project for Confirmation and First Communion students at the Winckler's.
- **April 4<sup>th</sup>:** Servant project for first responders.
- **May 16<sup>th</sup>:** High School End of the School Year Late Night (half lock-in).

## Po-Boy Sandwich Reminder

If you ordered po-boy sandwiches for Super Bowl Sunday, remember to pick them up in the Mary and Martha Fellowship Hall after services or Sunday School on February 2. Call Lynn Bedner at 713.668.3977 or [raylynn80@hotmail.com](mailto:raylynn80@hotmail.com) for the availability of last-minute orders. The sandwiches are \$5.00 each. Checks should be made payable to Trinity Lutheran Ladies Circle.

Net proceeds of this fund-raiser will help provide for various ministries supported by the Ladies Circle. Thank you for your support.



## Men's Breakfast and Bible Study

**Saturday, February 8  
9:00 a.m.**

Join Pastor Hofmann for our men's breakfast and Bible study on February 8. He will be using the video-based Bible study from Lutheran Hour Ministries: "Who Am I? What Am I Doing Here?" Men of all ages are welcome. Contact Pastor Michael Hofmann at [mhofmann@trinitydt.org](mailto:mhofmann@trinitydt.org) for more information.



TRINITY  
Downtown

FOOTBALL  
SUNDAY  
POWERED BY INCREASE

Presents

# FOOTBALL

SATURDAY SATELLITE SERVICE

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST | 5 PM**  
1316 WASHINGTON AVE. | HOUSTON, TX 77002

Music courtesy of TRINITY SATELLITE BAND

Beer Provided By  
**SAINT ARNOLD**  
A TRINITY SATELLITE SERVICE

\*BEER LIMITED TO ONE PER PERSON

FEATURING A  
**SUPER BOWL OF  
CHILI SHOWDOWN**





Upbring

School of Discovery  
and Leadership  
Downtown Houston



# Parents Night Out

**Friday, February 7**  
**6:30PM - 10:30PM**

Upbring School | 1316 Washington Ave., Houston, TX 77002

Open to children from 6 months to 5th Grade  
Reservations required - please reserve your spot  
at 832.301.3100

Join us for:  
Pizza | Snacks | Juice | Games | Entertainment

\$30 Per Child

### BOARD OF ELDERS - CONTACT INFORMATION

Jim Baccus . . . . .	<a href="mailto:jimbaccus@comcast.net">jimbaccus@comcast.net</a> . . . . .	713.956.1899
Delvin Dennis . . . . .	<a href="mailto:ddennis@entouch.net">ddennis@entouch.net</a> . . . . .	281.415.8787
Dan Krueger . . . . .	<a href="mailto:dwkrueger5@yahoo.com">dwkrueger5@yahoo.com</a> . . . . .	901.258.4029
Steve Maynard . . . . .	<a href="mailto:smaynard@durwoodgreene.com">smaynard@durwoodgreene.com</a> . . . . .	281.799.9600
Joshua Rodriguez . . . . .	<a href="mailto:joshrodriguez@hotmail.com">joshrodriguez@hotmail.com</a> . . . . .	832.527.1957

# Greetings from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis!

Well, I made it through Advent and now I seem to be on the downward slope to the end of vicarage. Okay, maybe that's a bit premature, but I am basically halfway through. Not only that, but compared to the hectic schedule of Advent (and what I assume to be just as hectic for Lent), the seasons of Epiphany and Pentecost seem like they will be a breeze. But I'm sure I'm getting a little ahead of myself.

My supervisor devised a sermon series for January about Sabbath, which we are preparing to conclude as I write this. It seemed to be very appropriate to cover this topic right after the chaos that is "the Christmas season" in America (AKA Advent and Christmas Day...plus Thanksgiving...and earlier for some). It's helpful to reflect on some of our shortcomings after such a busy time. Yes, I'm lumping you in with me. Let's reflect a bit.



**Chuck Ridley**  
Seminary Student

While I got extra experience preaching and teaching in December, I can easily look back and see how I can get caught up in what I do – what I accomplish. From what I've read, this is especially applicable to men, though I believe it happens to women here in America as well. I'm certain that I let my drive to produce work get in the way of my ability to be present with my family and friends at times. I felt like I had to earn the right to rest and take time with my loved ones. In my mind, I let my identity become tied up with what I finished, rather than acknowledging my true identity as one who has had everything necessary finished for me by Christ my Lord.

The gift of Sabbath is a wonderful thing that we should all seek to incorporate into our lives. The gift of physical rest, the gift of stopping and acknowledging our identity in Christ, the gift of being present with those around us – these are all aspects of this gift our Creator gives us. It's a command. It's an invitation.

As I go through vicarage, I keep finding inadequacies within myself. Whatever might be said about self-improvement techniques and goals, I am consistently reminded that I am nothing but a beggar, constantly in need of God's grace and mercy. Whenever I seem to "fix" one deficiency, I seem to find another. Thanks be to God that we are indeed saved by Christ's works for us and not by anything we could ever do for Him!

And let us also be thankful that God's love flows into His people and overflows to those around us. So, as we receive the Father's mercy and forgiveness in Christ, we also love and forgive one another. I know I certainly need forgiveness and reconciliation on a regular basis. We should all seek this reconciliation with one another.

I also began Advent with a sad, but profound experience. One of our seminary professors lost his battle with cancer and died. He and his family were members of our congregation, so I got to witness some of the battle. Although I would consider my part of the whole thing to be insignificant, I was able to visit my professor and his family a few times and to see the Hmong community come together to mourn the loss of this influential teacher, pastor, and friend. As my supervisor reflected afterward, I think there is a lot we as American Christians could learn from this Asian Christian community. There is probably a whole letter I could write on the little bit that I experienced, but I will let this suffice for now.

In terms of events, there are a number of things I could mention. Of course, Stephanie and I were able to visit Houston and spend time with family and friends over the week of New Years. We had our ritual dinner of Whataburger upon entering the Promised Land of Texas and made our usual visits to Buc-ee's, HEB, and some Houston breweries. We enjoyed the beautiful weather and our favorite fajitas. We talked, we played games, but mostly we drove a lot. What can I say? That's the way of life in Houston.

In the coming days, I am going to be able to attend the March for Life in Washington D.C. My father-in-law leads a group from the high school at which he teaches. Stephanie was already on the list to go, but a late drop-out allowed me the opportunity to hop onboard and my supervisor was willing to let me take the extra time off. I am looking forward to experiencing this massive event.



**Making large bubbles at a friend's house while in Houston.**

Stephanie and I were also accepted for the exchange program with Cambridge University in the UK. For those who haven't heard about this yet, Concordia Seminary has a sister seminary at Cambridge called Westfield House. The seminaries and colleges of the LCMS regularly send students to Westfield House for a year - or even a semester - to study.

While this will extend my studies by a year, the experience comes highly recommended by several people who have been before – including some of my professors. Everyone I have encountered who has been says that it is not to be missed if possible. We still have some paperwork to complete and some logistics to work through for the transition later this year (around September), but we are very excited to be going on this adventure together.

We are thankful for your continued support in every form. May our Lord bless you richly in body and soul.

*"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone." (Isaiah 9:2, ESV)*

*"Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'" (John 8:12, ESV)*

In Christ,  
Chuck Ridley



The 1920's themed "Gatsby Gala" will be held at the Lone Star Flight Museum (11551 Aerospace Ave. Houston, TX 77034) on the evening of February 28, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. This soirée is going to be a fun night of food, fellowship, and fundraising as Lutheran South Academy works together to make upgrades to their campus safety, beautify their campus, and finish paying off their track and field project! Dress festive and travel back in time to the extravagance and pizzazz of the 1920's!

Go to [gala.lutheransouth.org](http://gala.lutheransouth.org) to purchase tickets.

# Be in the Word

**Adult Bible Classes - Sundays at 9:30 a.m.**

**“Christian Rubric for Life”** - Led by Tom DeVries - Room 206

On a routine basis we face questions that do not have simple answers. We can see the logic in competing arguments, but we cannot be sure we see God in our responses. This class appreciates that the answers are not simple, but that God has given us the knowledge through His Word, the tools provided by history's greatest theologians and the aptitude that God bestowed in each one of us to develop our own personal Christian Rubric for Life.

**“Corinth, We Have a Problem”** - Led by Jim Cleary - Room 205

Life among Christians can be great. But it can also be exasperating! The joys of fellowship in Christ too often give way to division and debate. Perhaps you wonder, Why don't we get along together as we should? Surprisingly, the first Christian believers didn't always live in harmony either! As you will see that the issues facing the Corinthian church are little different from the ones we struggle with year after year. Here in 1 Corinthians is a portrait of Christian community not as it was meant to be, but as it often really is. But here too is practical advice for overcoming the challenges of life together. Discussion oriented.

**“Faith Discovery”** - Led by Pastor Michael P. Dorn - Room 123

Faith Discovery is a class for individuals seeking membership at Trinity Downtown.

**“Life Today and Forever with Jesus”** - Led by Pastor Paul Dorn - Room 209

Come explore the witness of Matthew's gospel and discover how to walk with our Lord and Savior.

**“Proverbs—Wise Up and Live”** - Led by Bill Fischer - Room 201

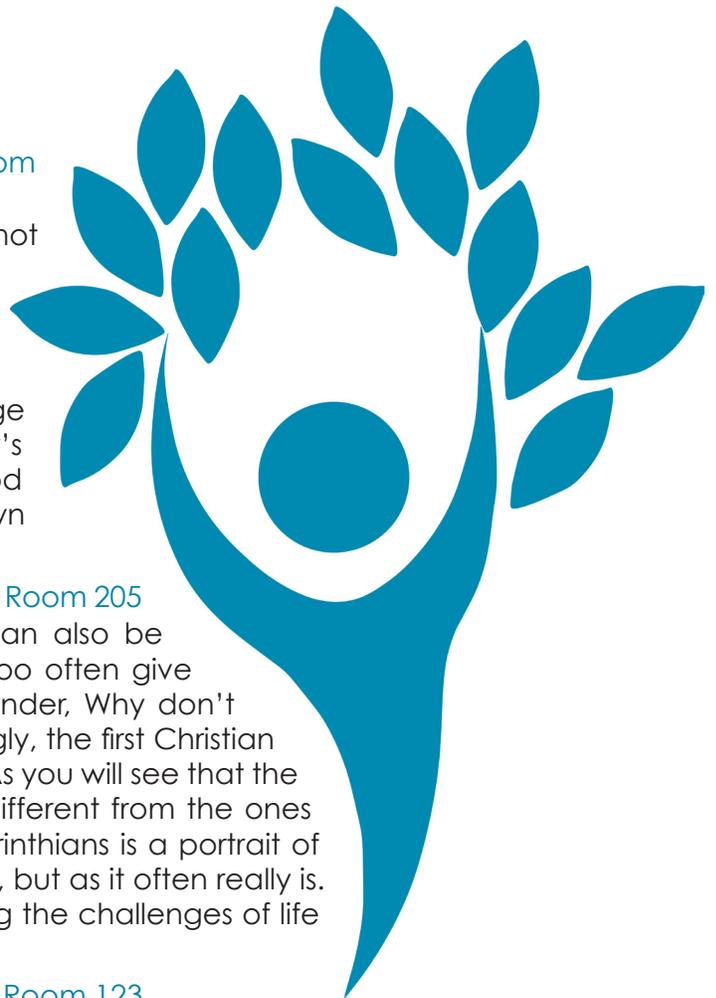
The Proverbs are a series of statements primarily written by King Solomon that give good advice on how a person should live. They don't tell a story as do so many other books of the Bible. Instead they provide instruction and guidance on a variety of topics, including Wisdom. Learn with us on how to “Wise Up and Live!”

**“The Five Love Languages of Children”** - Led by Pastor Aaron & Becky Richert - Room 234

Every child is a special and unique creation of God. Accordingly, each of our children also has a unique way of feeling loved. Come and discover your child or grandchild's love language and learn how to build a solid foundation of trust as they grow. Based on the book by bestselling author Gary Chapman. Books will be available for purchase though are not required.

**“The Lutheran Mind - The Theology of the Cross”** - Led by Pastor Michael Hofmann - Room 233

Why do bad things happen? How does God work His will in the midst of our sufferings? Why is there pain? Why is there suffering? Why did God let Adam and Eve eat from the tree? How do we reconcile what God has revealed with what remains hidden? These are some hard questions with which most of us have struggled. Even people we know who are “unchurched” probably have struggled with these questions. They might have even approached us with them. And regardless of the amount of our theological training, we all wrestle with these complex, yet fundamental questions about God, Jesus, sin, man, life and death. Join us as we explore the depths of our Lutheran Minds.



## **Kingdom Quest Sunday School - Sundays at 9:30 a.m.**

**Pre-K (ages 2 & 3)** - Room 212

**Pre-K4/K** - Room 211

**1st - 4th Grade** - Basement

## **Foundations 56 - Sundays at 9:30 a.m.**

**5th/6th Grade** - Room 207

## **Confirmation - Sundays at 9:30 a.m.**

**7th - 8th Grade** - Room 124

## **Youth - Sundays at 9:30 a.m.**

**9th - 12th Grade** - USC (Underground Student Center in the basement)

## **Adult Midweek Bible Studies**

### **Tuesday Women's Bible Study - "Making Your Case for Christ"**

Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. - Room 205 - Women's Bible Study led by Emily Lee

A six-week video-based course based upon the book "The Case for Christ". The course is designed to help Christians, both young and old, understand and articulate the message of Christ along with evidence that backs up His claims and credentials.

### **Wednesday Women's Bible Study - "Waiting: A Bible Study on Patience, Hope, and Trust"**

Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. - Room 124 - Women's Bible Study led by Jan Case

Waiting can be agony. In our culture where almost everything is instant, we are accustomed to getting what we want now. So when our lives are put in a holding pattern, we squirm.

*Waiting: A Bible Study on Patience, Hope, and Trust* focuses on the lives of eight biblical women who waited and yearned and ached. The study highlights principles that make these times more bearable, and maybe more meaningful, even if it feels like God isn't present or there's nothing we can do. Learn how to surrender your worries to God, handle the daily-ness of waiting, and draw closer to Jesus.

### **Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study - "1st Corinthians"**

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. - Room 207 - Women's Bible Study led by Mary Oliver

### **Sonrise Bible Study**

Thursdays at 6:30 a.m. - Room 124 - Led by Pastor Black

Class discusses the Scripture readings assigned for the following Sunday. The class is open to men and women. Coffee is available. For more information, contact Pastor Black at 713.229.2917 or [dblack@trinitydt.org](mailto:dblack@trinitydt.org).

### **TnT Young Adults Bible Study**

Current Study: "Book of Isaiah" - Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Friday at 7:00 p.m. and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at 10:30 a.m. Contact Pastor Michael Hofmann for details at 913.500.2993 or [mhofmann@trinitydt.org](mailto:mhofmann@trinitydt.org).



**CHURCH REPORT**  
December 16 - January 19

**BAPTISMS**

**December 29**

Marlowe Blake Taylor



**REVENUE UPDATE**

**Year To Date through 01/19/20**

Actual Receipts . . . . . \$78,345  
Budgeted Receipts . . . . \$87,385

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TOTALS**

	<u>PK-8</u>	<u>H.S.</u>	<u>Adult</u>	<u>Total</u>
12/22		No classes		
12/29		No classes		
01/05	31	0	82	113
01/12	49	0	102	151
01/19	45	0	103	148

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

	<u>5:00</u>	<u>8:15</u>	<u>9:30</u>	<u>10:50</u>	<u>Total</u>
12/21	41				
12/22			254		295
12/28	32				
12/29			185		217
01/05	40				
01/06		204		193	437
01/11	54				
01/12		203		123	382
01/18	43				
01/19		135		145	323

**CHRISTMAS WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

	<u>9:30</u>	<u>5:00</u>	<u>7:00</u>	<u>Total</u>
12/24		578	298	876
12/25	185			185

# Houston Lutheran Choral Seeking Singers

IT IS NOT TOO LATE. The Houston Lutheran Choral is seeking singers to celebrate the birth of our nation on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. You can start at our first or second rehearsal. Please check your calendars.



- Who: All Lutherans who love to sing – no auditions required
- When: Rehearsals began Sunday, January 26. Second rehearsal is February 9.
- Time: 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. two Sunday afternoons each month.
- Where: Trinity Downtown

The Concert is scheduled for July 4, 2020. Other special performances may be added. For complete rehearsal schedule go to [www.hlc-tx.org](http://www.hlc-tx.org).

For more information: call 832.489.6773 (please leave your name and number) or visit their website at [www.hlc-tx.org](http://www.hlc-tx.org).

**STAFF DIRECTORY**  
**713.224.0684**

- Senior Pastor  
Michael P. Dorn . . . . . 713.229.2940
- Pastor of Missions and Outreach  
Michael Hofmann . . . . . 713.229.2905
- Visitation Pastor  
Donald G. Black . . . . . 713.229.2917
- Chief Financial Officer  
Ron Lacy . . . . . 713.229.2970
- Dir. of Administration and  
Human Resources  
Trinity Garrett . . . . . 713.229.2937
- Director of Music and Worship  
Mary Voigt . . . . . 713.229.2922
- Director of Discipleship  
Matthew Meier . . . . . 832.301.3105
- Director of Youth Ministries  
Michael Winckler . . . . . 713.229.2910
- Director of Accounting  
Roseann Gamez . . . . . 713.229.2962
- Communications Coordinator  
Pam Schroeder . . . . . 713.229.2944
- Contributions Manager  
Angela Avant . . . . . 713.229.2963
- Hostess  
Stefanie Bowman . . . . . 713.229.2950



*Joyfully Sharing Christ's Saving  
Love With All People Now!*

**2020 GOVERNING BOARD**

- Jim Baccus (Elder)
- Kim Davis (Chair)
- Cindy Deere
- Delvin Dennis (Elder)
- Thomas DeVries
- Pastor Michael Dorn
- Bo Hopmann
- Dan Krueger (Elder/Vice-Chair)
- Steve Maynard (Elder)
- Janet Mueller
- Joshua Rodriguez (Elder)
- Cynthia Roney (Secretary)

*Minutes of the Governing Board are available to our members at the Welcome Center.*

# February 2020

## Trinity Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<p><b>1</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Ladies Circle Po-Boy Prep</p> <p>10:00 AM Houston Symphony Chorus Retreat</p> <p>5:00 PM Satellite Service/ Football Saturday/Chili Showdown</p> 
<p>JANUARY</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4</p> <p>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</p> <p>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</p> <p>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p>26 27 28 29 30 31</p>					<p>MARCH</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p> <p>29 30 31</p>	
<p><b>2</b></p> <p>8:15 AM Traditional Worship (C)</p> <p>9:30 AM Bible Study Hour</p> <p>10:50 AM Traditional Worship (C)</p> <p>2:00 PM Casulana Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Staff Leadership Team Meeting</p> <p>10:00 AM Women's Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 PM Stephen Ministry</p> <p>7:00 PM Houston Bronze Ensemble Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 PM Houston Symphony Chorus Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Women's Bible Study</p> <p>10:30 PM Devotions at HPCC</p> <p>6:15 PM Trinity Bells</p> <p>6:30 PM Women's Bible Study</p> <p>7:15 PM Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>6:30 AM Sonrise Bible Study</p> <p>10:00 AM Ladies Circle Meeting</p> <p>1:00 PM Peace-Filled Quilters</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>6:30 PM Parents Night Out</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Men's Breakfast/ Bible Study</p> <p>5:00 PM Satellite Service (C)</p>
<p><b>9</b></p> <p>8:15 AM Traditional Worship</p> <p>9:30 AM Bible Study Hour</p> <p>10:50 AM Traditional Worship</p> <p>12:00 PM 39 Club</p> <p>12:30 PM MS Youth Group</p> <p>2:00 PM Casulana Rehearsal</p> <p>2:00 PM HLC Rehearsal</p> <p>2:30 PM Daniel Ficarrì Organ Concert</p> 	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Staff Leadership Team Meeting</p> <p>10:00 AM Women's Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 PM Houston Symphony Chorus Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 PM Houston Bronze Ensemble Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Women's Bible Study</p> <p>6:15 PM Trinity Bells</p> <p>6:30 PM Women's Bible Study</p> <p>7:15 PM Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>6:30 AM Sonrise Bible Study</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> 	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>5:00 PM Satellite Service</p> <p>6:30 PM HS Youth Group</p>
<p><b>16</b></p> <p>8:15 AM Traditional Worship (C)</p> <p>9:30 AM Bible Study Hour</p> <p>10:50 AM Traditional Worship (C)</p> <p>2:00 PM Casulana Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Staff Leadership Team Meeting</p> <p>10:00 AM Women's Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 PM Stephen Ministry</p> <p>7:00 PM Houston Bronze Ensemble Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 PM Houston Symphony Chorus Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Women's Bible Study</p> <p>10:30 AM Ladies Circle HPCC</p> <p>6:15 PM Trinity Bells</p> <p>6:30 PM Women's Bible Study</p> <p>7:15 PM Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>6:30 AM Sonrise Bible Study</p> <p>10:00 AM Ladies Circle Executive Board</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>10:00 AM LWML Bayou City Zone Executive Board</p> <p>5:00 PM Satellite Service (C)</p>
<p><b>23</b></p> <p>8:15 AM Traditional Worship</p> <p>9:30 AM Bible Study Hour</p> <p>10:50 AM Traditional Worship</p> <p>12:30 PM MS Youth Fellowship/ Service Event</p> <p>2:00 PM HLC Rehearsal</p> <p>2:00 PM Casulana Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>6:00 PM Elders Meeting</p> <p>6:30 PM Governing Board Meeting</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Staff Leadership Team Meeting</p> <p>10:00 AM Women's Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 PM Sunday School MAT</p> <p>7:00 PM Houston Bronze Ensemble Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 PM Houston Symphony Chorus Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Women's Bible Study</p> <p>12:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship (C)</p> <p>6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Worship (C)</p> <p>7:15 PM Sanctuary Choir</p> 	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>6:30 AM Sonrise Bible Study</p> <p>10:00 AM HFD Bible Study</p> <p>6:15 PM Trinity Bells</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>5:00 PM Satellite Service</p>

## Ladies Circle Ministries – February 6

The monthly meeting of Trinity Lutheran Ladies Circle Ministries will be held in Room 205 at 10 a.m. on February 6<sup>th</sup>. Refreshments, with a time for fellowship, will be available at 9:30 a.m.

Our program for the day will be presented by Annette Mullendore, a Docent with the Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens. Her topic is "Chocolate." All are welcome.

For more information, contact Debbie Leonard, president, at 319.431.6804, or [Debbie.Leonard.TX@gmail.com](mailto:Debbie.Leonard.TX@gmail.com).



### Additional dates to remember:

- Saturday, February 1 – 9 a.m. - "Po-Boy" preparation.
- Sunday, February 2 – 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Pick up your Po-boys in M/M Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday, February 19 - 10:30 a.m. - Devotion at Highland Park Care Center, 8861 Fulton St.

## The 39 Club



The 39 Club is invited to meet in the foyer following the 10:50 a.m. service on February 9 and plan to have lunch at The Corner Bakery, 107 Yale St. near Washington Ave.

In January the group enjoyed the hospitality of Jean Minsch and her annual "Chili with all the fixin's" lunch.

Those who are single, 39 and over, are invited to join us. For more information or to RSVP, contact Jean at 281.550.4752.

## Life Thoughts in the Church Year – February 2 – Epiphany IV

God has chosen weak and lowly so that no human being need boast (I Corinthians 2:27-29). This is the power of Christ and His cross, that God gave His Firstborn for our transgressions so we don't have to (Micah 6:7). And since He has made children and saints of such as us, may no one prevent Him from performing as mightily for our unborn neighbors or elderly ones, and may nothing hinder us from advocating and celebrating it!

From the Winter 2019 issue of LifeDate, a quarterly journal of news and commentary from Lutherans For Life – [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)



[www.trinitydt.org](http://www.trinitydt.org)

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Article submission deadline **February 10** for articles to be published March 1, 2020.  
Submit articles to [pschroeder@trinitydt.org](mailto:pschroeder@trinitydt.org).  
Contact Pam Schroeder at 713.229.2944 with any questions about this publication.