



# Trinity Today

Vol. 22, No. 6

June 1, 2020



## Worship WITH US

**We are excited that in-person worship has returned to Trinity Downtown!**

Satellite Service • Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. • Education Center (50 max)

Traditional Service • Sundays at 8:15 a.m. • Sanctuary (100 max)

Traditional Service • Sundays at 10:50 a.m. • Sanctuary (100 max)

Devotional Service with Communion • Wednesdays at Noon • Sanctuary (100 max)

**Reservations are required to maintain social distancing.**

To RSVP, go to [www.trinitydt.org](http://www.trinitydt.org) and select which service you would like to attend. You may also call the church office at 713.224.0684 (8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., M-F) and talk to Stefanie to reserve your ticket.

Please note that each attendee will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 and their temperature will be taken before entering the building.

*We are happy to offer in-person worship services, but please do not feel obligated to attend, especially if you are in an "at risk" group (over 65 and/or have underlying health conditions). We will continue online worship opportunities for the foreseeable future.*

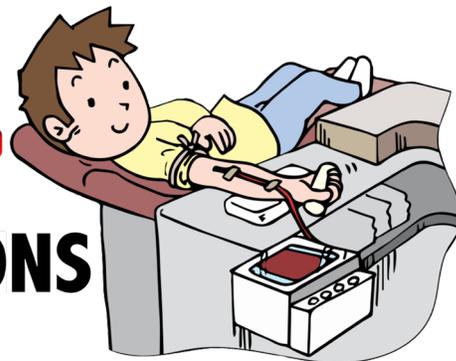
*I was glad when they said to me,  
"Let us go to the house of the Lord!"*

Psalm 122:1 ESV

# Blood Donor Sunday - June 14

URGENT! The Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center currently has less than a one-day supply of blood on their shelves. They are in critical need of donors as businesses and schools remain closed, fewer people are going to work, and hospitals are opening back up to elective surgeries. Blood donations are critical to our community, and the need is constant.

**URGENT!**  
**BLOOD DONATIONS NEEDED**



Our Blood Donor Sunday will be held June 14, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (hours may be extended) in the gym. Appointment is required. You can sign-up online at [www.commitforlife.org](http://www.commitforlife.org) and pick Trinity's drive (sponsor code: 0620) to set your appointment. Text or call Sherri Schroeder at 713.825.2586 if you have questions. Donors will receive a free Heroes Face Mask.

Gulf Coast has stepped up all sanitization and safety guidelines in the midst of this virus and are working with the CDC, FDA, FEMA, and the US Surgeon General to ensure that blood donations continue to be a safe process. Enhanced safety measures include:

Gulf Coast has stepped up all sanitization and safety guidelines in the midst of this virus and are working with the CDC, FDA, FEMA, and the US Surgeon General to ensure that blood donations continue to be a safe process. Enhanced safety measures include:

- In addition to disposable gloves worn by staff, all staff are also now wearing masks.
- Beds and screening booths are set up more than 6' apart, all waiting areas are spacing donors 6' apart.
- Donations are taken by appointment only to ensure crowd sizes remain small.
- Thorough sanitization of all surfaces between every donor – tabletops, beds, etc.
- Only single-use items are utilized at this time. Brand new, personal squeeze balls are used for each donor and the donor is asked to take it with them when they leave.
- All staff are screened and temperature checked before leaving Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center each day. All donors are also health screened and temp checked at the blood drive.
- Hand sanitizer is abundant at all check-in tables for donor use, and each staff has personal hand sanitizer to keep on them and utilize constantly throughout the day.

We look forward to a very successful drive. Double red cell and combination whole blood and plasma machines will be available for those wishing to donate that way. Both count for two donations.

REMINDER!! The minimum donor age requirement to give blood is 16 years old with a parent's permission. Weight must be 122 lbs. (110 lbs. for 17 and older) and in general good health.

REMEMBER: one unit of blood can save as many as three lives as it is broken down into three components – red blood cells, platelets and plasma.

May our Lord keep you healthy so you can continue to contribute the gift of life!

## 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
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Joshua Rodriguez . . . . .	<a href="mailto:joshrodriguez@hotmail.com">joshrodriguez@hotmail.com</a> . . . . .	832.527.1957

# AS OF MAY 26 – 288 and counting

## A report from Pastor Black . . .

Since the shutdown, my ministry has taken place mostly by telephone.

What a blessing to share with God's people at Trinity. I have made 288 phone calls to members. Homebound people are called each month. Some 220 persons have been contacted.

Responses have included: "I feel trapped" – "all is well!" – "I've had a paycut" to "I'm working at home" – "It's my birthday" (people to whom I sing) – "I'm staying put" or "I'm driving to Chappell Hill to see the bluebonnets" – or "I'm on a conference call with people in New York and France."

You may be saying, "Why haven't I had a call?" Do you want a call? Call me at 713.229.2917 and I WILL return your call with pleasure!

Some godly advice – "Cast all your care upon Him, because He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7)

CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN, INDEED! ALLELUIA!



## Greetings Trinity Downtown,

Abby and I are anxiously organizing and packing all our odds and ends. We are eager to get the move over with, we are sad to be leaving, and we are filled with the hope of Gods continued blessings.

Abby and I dearly want to say thank you to each and every one of you. Trinity has played a large part for a small time in Abby's and my lives. A mark has been made, one we most certainly will not soon forget. Thank you for the continued blessings and gifts that we have gotten from you whether through mail or sent in to Trinity. These have already been and will continue to support Abby and me. I have said this before and will continue to. When there is someone or something in need, Trinity steps up and loves on them or it.

I ask that you continue to pray for us as we transition, that you continue to pray for the man or woman who will be stepping into my role, that you continue to pray for the leadership of Trinity Downtown, and pray with earnest hearts for the youth of Trinity.

There is no word in the Navajo language for goodbye. They say, translated, "Until I see you again." I've always loved that. So, until we see y'all again.

PS: Here is how you can get into contact with me:

Our address will be 2 Founders Way - Unit D - St. Louis, MO 63105

My personal email and phone number are: [Wincklerint@gmail.com](mailto:Wincklerint@gmail.com) and 402-909-2386



# Greetings from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis!

\*squints eyes\* What's going on? What day is it? Is it still 2020? Does anyone know how I could get a haircut?

Okay, that may be a bit of an exaggeration. But the last two months have sort of slipped by me. I don't know about you, but Stephanie and I both feel like we've been busier during this (ongoing) time of quarantine. As things began to shut down and people mostly seemed optimistic about a brief lockdown, I saw lists of books to read, movies/shows to stream, and activities to try out – all of this with the assumption that we suddenly would have absolutely nothing to do. I thought that it would be great if I would suddenly have all of this extra time free. I didn't expect it would actually happen for me, though. I imagine that's not quite how it happened for most of you, either.

Unfortunately, we can't just stop that easily. Not for an extended period of time, at least. For better or worse, some parts of life must keep going. Not only does the economy need to keep going to ensure food supply, medical services, infrastructure maintenance, and so on, but the Church does not stop proclaiming the Gospel – not even for a global pandemic. Especially not for such an event. This is when people need to hear the Good News of Jesus all the more.

That statement convicts me for neglecting this letter for two months (hard to believe we've been in quarantine that long already!). I assume, however, that you have a local congregation that you are a member of, where you are fed by your own pastor. If that's not the case, let me know. I can help you find such a congregation. The Church may be an invisible institution that is bound together by God's Word and Spirit, but it is manifest in physical locations where that Word (specifically the Gospel, in its purity) is preached and the Sacraments are administered rightly.

Since we could not meet in person, however, most congregations that I know (including Resurrection, my vicarage congregation) have 'pivoted' to online only services and other content (e.g. Bible studies). For our part, we moved from only recording the sermon each Sunday to Live-streaming an entire service on YouTube, abbreviated though it may be. Not only that, but we began to host Bible study three days a week on Zoom. My supervisor and I have been trading off leading that, as we go through the Gospel of Mark. We started a weekly book club and have been going through N.T. Wright's *Simply Good News* on Thursday evenings on Zoom. Interactions with our Middle School and High School groups have also moved to Zoom. Lastly, we began a midweek hymn sing on Wednesday evenings. We play 6-7 songs with a brief devotional thought before each one. These have been Live-streamed on YouTube as well.

Technology has been a real blessing in this pandemic. It is great that we are able to provide these online services, Bible studies, and so on. But it's still not the same. It's weird preaching to a camera. Even imagining the people on the other end, it's still odd to have a bunch of empty pews in front of me and to look over them into a camera. I miss the feedback I get from people's faces. I miss the sound of our voices filling the nave, even if the organ and other instruments are playing the music. I miss the energy that comes with our church family gathered to receive the gifts of God together.

Humans were not made to be isolated like this. From the very beginning, God said that it is not right for the man to be alone. Now, I don't mean to take that out of context, but I think it at least points to the need for community and to be with other people - physically. But this odd time provides the opportunity to reflect on our lives and learn various lessons that we may have avoided for a long time.



**Chuck Ridley, Seminary Student**

For example, a society that seems to avoid death with every ounce of its being (avoidance in talk, avoidance in lifestyle, etc.), now has to wrestle with the very present reality of death. How will our culture respond/change, having suddenly been clocked over the head with the reality of death? Without the hope of the Gospel of Jesus, how will the world act/think/speak as a result?

Similarly, our idols have been exposed as we have been knocked out of our previous routines. What were you relying on for your identity, meaning, and purpose? Was it your job (now being limited and unable to provide you an escape)? Was it your spouse or kids (now driving you crazy being stuck at home all day)? Maybe it was technology (and now you're quickly becoming tired of its limitations)?

This situation also gives us the opportunity to restructure our lives with new habits – especially new devotional practices. It's a chance to learn focus. You may be inundated with a stream of church services, devotional videos, and emails from bloggers and podcasters. But rather than try to take it all in and get burned out, you can choose a couple of sources (e.g. your congregation's services and one podcast) to focus on and stick with it while we go through this quarantine time. Besides spiritual practices, don't neglect your body. Stephanie and I finally began an exercise program at home together since we couldn't go to the gym. I will say, though, that the daily exercise program definitely contributes to the feeling of being more busy than before quarantine!

Several people have asked me about the plans to go to Cambridge next academic year. The plans are still in the air with the current restrictions around the world due to COVID-19. However, we have been moving forward with the process, so we are still (cautiously) holding the assumption that we will be in the UK by October. If it happens to fall through, then I will simply register for classes for my final year at the seminary and Stephanie will look for work to last through the school year.

Lastly, I will end on an Easter note. Yes, at the time of my writing this letter, it is still the Easter season. Some of you may not read this until it is Pentecost, but I can't rightly skip over Easter! This was certainly the most unusual Easter I have experienced. I imagine it was the same for you. But this helps remind us that the reality of Christ's victory over death is not dependent on us gathering together and singing the right songs. It's not dependent on us at all. Christ IS risen, no matter what we see, think, feel, or experience. Therefore, we have hope. Even – especially – in the midst of the sufferings of this life. These may be particularly trying times, but they help us build endurance. May our risen Lord Jesus grant you the endurance you need to keep running this race until the day He returns.



**SUFFERING**  
produces endurance, and

**ENDURANCE**  
produces character, and

**CHARACTER**  
produces hope, and

**HOPE**  
does not disappoint us ...

ROMANS 5:3-5, NRSV

Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

*"Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." (Romans 5:3-5, ESV)*

In Christ,  
Chuck Ridley

# Online Bible Study Opportunities

Bible Study classes will be meeting via video teleconference. To join a class, go to our website, [www.trinitydt.org](http://www.trinitydt.org), and click on Bible Study under the Connect tab. Click on the square labeled "Video Call Information" and a few minutes before the class is to begin, click on the link of the class you want to join.

*Study  
with us  
from*  
**H**  **ME**

## SUNDAYS

### **Foundations** (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades)

Led by Jane Suchma & Karen Maynard - 9:30 a.m.

### **Hope For Today**

Led by Jim Cleary - 6 p.m.

### **Hope in Captivity – A Study of Philippians**

Led by Pastor Aaron & Becky Richert - time to be determined

### **Life Today and Forever with Jesus**

Led by Pastor Paul Dorn - 7 p.m.

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

### **Praying—Meeting God in Daily Life**

Led by Bill Fischer's Team - 9:30 a.m.

### **What's Next?**

Led by Thomas DeVries - 9:30 a.m.

Many people want to make sense of our current situation. This class focuses on what is still to come and how to prepare ourselves and our community spiritually for What's Next.

## WEDNESDAYS

### **Waiting – A Bible Study on Patience, Hope and Trust (Women's Study)**

Led by Jan Case - 9:30 AM

### **Gideon (Women's Study)**

Led by Mary Oliver - 6:30 PM

We are using a new study of Priscilla Shirer's book, *Gideon*. Through Gideon's story, we are studying how God provides His love and strength for us in spite of our weaknesses. We will learn how our weaknesses can be used by God for His purpose. An online study guide is available for \$5.00 at Lifeway.com. The printed study guide book is \$14.99 on Lifeway.com.

### **Virtual Midweek Spiritual Check-in**

Led by Jim Cleary - 7:00 PM

## THURSDAYS

### **Sonrise Bible Study**

Led by Pastor Donald Black - 7:30 AM

The class discusses the Scripture readings assigned for the following Sunday. The class is open to men and women. For more information, contact Bill Fischer at 713.827.8664 or [bfisch@aol.com](mailto:bfisch@aol.com).

# Homeless Sack Lunch Ministry Needs

We are so very grateful for all of the help we have received with feeding our Homeless friends who come to our doors Monday - Friday. We are always in need of the following items for this ministry: Vienna sausages, peanut butter crackers, individual apple sauce cups, bottle water and spoons. If you are out shopping and are able to pick up a few items for Trinity Downtown, we will gladly reimburse you or provide a donation letter. This ministry continues due to the generous gifts from all of you.



Thank you!

# Congratulations Singers

Congratulations to Trinity members Randy Boatright, Robert Gomez and Pastor Michael Dorn who were all honored in a recent virtual pin ceremony for reaching milestones in their participation with the Houston Symphony Chorus. Randy was honored for singing in 600 concerts, Robert for 400 concerts and Pastor Dorn has sung 50 concerts. We are proud to have these fine musicians also singing at Trinity.



**Randy Boatright**



**Robert Gomez**



**Pastor Michael P. Dorn**

## STAFF DIRECTORY

**713.224.0684**

- Senior Pastor  
Michael P. Dorn . . . . . 713.229.2940
- 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.*

# Ladies Circle Meetings Still on Hold

In compliance with guidelines for “social distancing” and for the safety of all, our Ladies Circle meeting and luncheon planned for June 4 has been cancelled.

Since we have not been able to gather our Mite Box offerings for several months, we would like to encourage our ladies and other supporters of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) to consider sending contributions to our treasurer which she can deposit and then send on to the LWML Texas District Financial Secretary for the new Mission Grants to be selected this summer and the ongoing national mission grants which also continue to need funding.



Make your checks payable to “Trinity Lutheran Ladies Circle” and mail them to Thelma Deterling c/o Trinity Lutheran Church, 800 Houston Ave., Houston, TX 77007, or to her home address.

While we cannot meet as a group, let’s make extra efforts to keep in touch with other “sisters in Christ.” May God bless us all!

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

**How to increase your giving to Trinity without spending any additional money.**

Please remember that you can expand your stewardship by using a program that Trinity has qualified for at Amazon. Amazon will give Trinity a 0.5% rebate for all purchases made by our supporters when making their normal purchases at Amazon. It’s very easy—whenever you are shopping on Amazon, go to this web address (instead of [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)):

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-1238451>

Using this service from Amazon won’t change the cost of the products you buy, and all of your account settings and preferences will be retained. The only thing that will change is that Trinity will receive a rebate!

## A Life Quote for the Church Year - May 31 – Day of Pentecost

“Remember not the sins of my youth” (Psalm 25:7a). Many post-abortive women and men have made the Psalmist’s prayer their own without us ever knowing. We don’t have to keep God’s Word to ourselves just because they do. Let us instead rejoice with them that the Heavenly Father remembers them in His steadfast love and forgiveness, even those who have engaged in violence against life.

This “Life Quote” is from *LifeDate*, a quarterly journal of news and commentary from Lutherans For Life – [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org).

Trinity Downtown

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

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Article submission deadline **June 11** for articles to be published July 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.