

Trinity Today

Vol. 22, No. 11

November 1, 2020

Thanksgiving Worship On Demand

(Available online beginning the
day before Thanksgiving)

See article on page 2 for more information.



Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!
For His mercy endures forever. 1 Chronicles 16:34

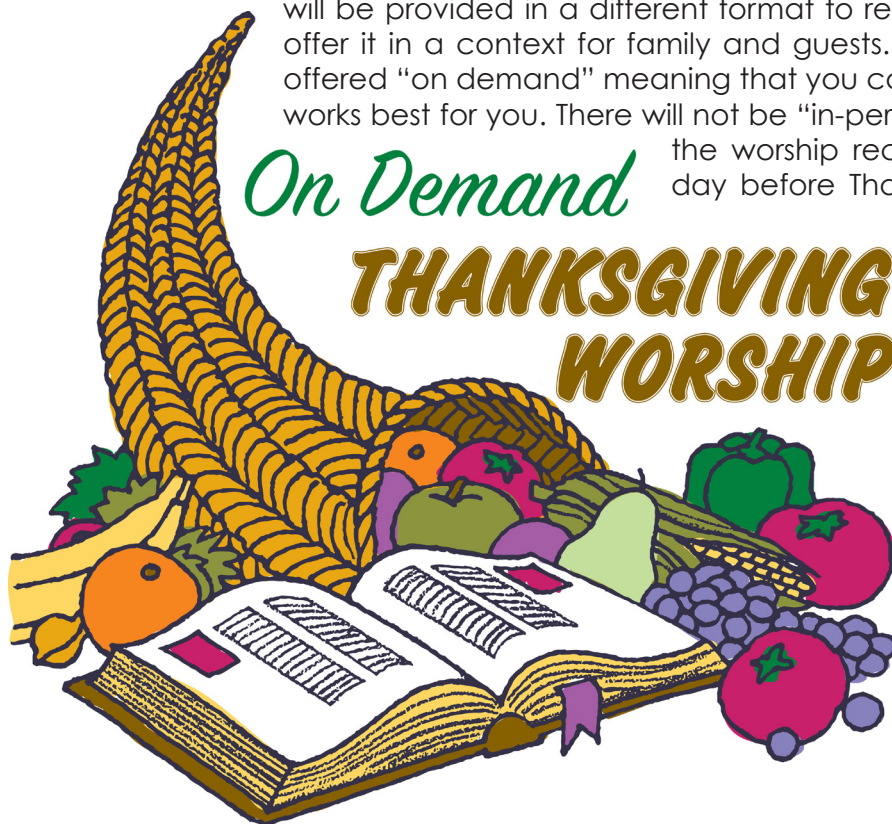
Thanksgiving Worship 2020

The United States of America set aside Thanksgiving as an annual federal holiday in 1863. President Lincoln said it should be celebrated as a national day of "Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens."

For many years Trinity Downtown has had a worship service on Thanksgiving Day. This year's worship will be provided in a different format to reach as many people as possible and offer it in a context for family and guests. The Thanksgiving Day service will be offered "on demand" meaning that you can go online for worship at a time that works best for you. There will not be "in-person" worship on Thanksgiving Day but the worship recording will be available already the day before Thanksgiving. The service will be shorter and formatted to coincide with the Thanksgiving meal. It will include family friendly elements too. This service can be used as a witness opportunity. An email reminder to link to Thanksgiving worship will be sent out the day before the holiday as a reminder to tune in.

On Demand

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP



Despite the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on our nation and community, we are reminded by the Apostle Paul to, "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). May the Lord bless our virtual worship on this special Day.

Thank You!

Hello everyone! Thank you for your generosity and hospitality over the last month! I am so excited to be here and have a chance to serve your students and families!

So far I have been connecting virtually to students through our current Sunday School classes! We are starting a new High School Bible Study through Zoom while we joyfully await the time when we can gather again in person! We are brainstorming ways to continue to connect, including a form that will be sent out to our children and youth families.

Thank you all for your support and I am so excited to continue together!

Blessings,
Haley Davisson



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.

Finance Corner - November 1, 2020

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. 2 Corinthians 9:10 ESV

Dear Supporter of Trinity's Ministry:

Despite the challenges our country has faced in 2020, your faithful giving in 2020 has made a real difference in our congregation's ability to share the Gospel:

- **We purchased and installed a new suite of video equipment** to improve our ability to live-stream our worship services;
- Due to a special gift, **we've been able to significantly reduce the amount due on our operational debt and expect to pay off that loan by the end of 2021.** Our only remaining indebtedness will then be the Education Center's mortgage. As of the end of September, we had an outstanding balance of \$175,301 in the operational debt loan, and \$3,414,135 outstanding on our mortgage loan;
- Despite enduring periods of time when we could not physically meet together, **our revenues (through September) are just 5% lower than our original budget, but our expenses are 12% lower than budget.**



Despite COVID, we all have so much to be thankful for. The pandemic has only increased the need for our city to hear the Good News of Jesus' love, and the only way Trinity can play our part is through your generous giving of time, talent and treasure.

On Saturday and Sunday, November 14th and 15th, we'll be returning the 2021 Commitment Cards which we mailed in late October. Ask God to guide your thoughts on what He would have you give in the coming year. Then write down your planned gift on the Commitment Card and bring it to church with you on November 14th or 15th or complete an [online pledge card](#). If you are unable to worship with us on a Commitment Weekend service, you can drop the Commitment Card in the offering at any subsequent worship service, mail your Commitment Card to the church office, or complete this [online pledge card](#).

For your convenience, please remember that you can track your contributions and/or print contribution letters online by logging into your Trinity Community Builder ("TCB") account. Just go to the "\$" on the left-most panel on the screen. Select it, and you will see your contributions listed in detail. If you then select the "Giving Statements" options on the top right portion of the screen, you can print your contribution statement.

Your faithful contributions continue to make a real difference in Trinity's ability to joyfully share Christ's saving love with all people, now. Thank you for faithful giving as we can count on God to increase the harvest of righteousness in all of our lives!

Joyfully joining Jesus alongside you,
Ron Lacy, CFO

Annual Congregational Assembly Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Assembly will be held on Sunday, November 15, 2020, at noon. Due to the social distancing requirements and other safety protocols associated with the coronavirus epidemic, this year's Assembly will be held virtually via Zoom with no in-person attendance.

The agenda for the Assembly is:

- Opening prayer
- Approval of the Congregational Assembly meeting minutes from November 2019 and July 2020
- Election for four open positions on the 2021 Governing Board and Elders
- Election of the 2021 Nominating Committee
- Presentation of the Governing Board report
- Ratification of the 2021 Ministry Spending Plan
- Adjournment



All members of Trinity Lutheran Church who are of voting age are welcome to attend and will receive an email describing the process for registering for the virtual meeting. Each member who RSVPs for the Assembly will receive a return email containing:

- Zoom credentials and a confirmation number they may use to attend the virtual meeting;
- A copy of the meeting minutes from the two previous Congregational Assemblies;
- Biographical information of each of the Governing Board and Elder candidates; and
- A copy of the proposed 2021 Ministry Financial Plan.

To join the virtual Congregational Assembly, **each voting member will need to use their own digital device** so each vote may be tallied individually. Voters may use a smartphone, tablet, iPad, laptop computer or desktop computer that has internet access. Devices that can install the "Zoom" application will be the easiest to operate.

Nominees for 2021 Governing Board

The following are the nominees for the 2021 Governing Board. Two elder and two non-elder positions are open. Current Board members not eligible for reelection are Bo Hopmann, Steve Maynard and Josh Rodriguez. Cynthia Roney's term is ending but she is eligible for reelection.



Nominee: Kimberly Flaviani

Age: 43

Years Trinity Member: 13

Occupation: Executive and Communications Assistant, LINC Ministries

Summarize your prior or present involvement in the church:

We "found" Trinity through Pastor David Leeland's numerous visits to my husband's grandfather in the hospital in 2006. The deal was sealed after an invitation to a Trinity Sunday Barbecue on the soccer fields where we were embraced by members and Pastor Dorn. (The food was good,

too!) We joined after our 3rd daughter's baptism in April of 2007. It's been a privilege to be a part of Trinity in a variety of seasons. Before going back to work, I served as a Board member for 5 years in various positions for our local LWML Society, Ladies Circle Ministries, and also as Christian Growth Chairman for 1 year on the LWML Bayou City Zone Board. I went through Stephen Ministry training in 2010 and served a short time before I had my 4th daughter. I taught first grade Sunday School for one year and assisted with youth ministry briefly when we didn't have a youth leader. Together with Joanne Husser, I cooked several Lenten suppers one year (I miss those!) and have participated in several Christmas Pageants with my family. Through the shutdowns, I've attended virtual Sunday School regularly and am currently leading a virtual Women's Bible Study in my community.

What skills and experience do you bring to serving this Board?

I'm a little bit of a 'Mary' and a 'Martha'. I enjoy the soup making if it creates a space for people to be in the presence of Jesus - yet I also want to be taking notes at the seminar! I'm still raising 4 children (finished my college degree after the first 2 were born). I took care of my father for 3 years and when not employed, helped with auctions and trade shows, coordinated volunteers, and served on swim team and PTO Boards. As an Executive Assistant for a variety of companies, I've written newsletters and hundreds of meeting minutes, learned [a few] Roberts Rules, managed special events, and learned to listen [fairly] effectively. Recently through LINC, I attended a timely "Good Board Governance" training led by Dr. Don Christian of Concordia Texas. In all of this, I've developed some grit and grace in responding to the unexpected. What do I really bring? I'm not 100% sure, but I take Governance seriously and I take the Great Commission even more seriously. I would be honored to serve.

Any other information you would like to share with the congregation:

The verse I've chosen to keep close for the next 3 months is Acts 16:25: "BUT at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God and the prisoners listened to them." How we respond to stress in these uncertain times is seen by the "prisoners" - those lost and in need of a tangible, real Savior. My prayer for this church is that it is a place where members are challenged to grow spiritually and equipped to disciple.



Nominee: Timothy L. Grady (Elder Candidate)

Age: 65

Years as a Trinity Member: Approximately 10

Occupation: Retired CPA in industry and consultant

Summarize your prior or present involvement in the church:

At other churches: Church Council Member, Building Fund Coordinator for construction of new sanctuary, Bible Study Leader in 5 year study, Vision Team Member, Treasurer, Synod Convention designee, Usher, Lector, Communion Server.

At Trinity: HUG2 and Mighty Acts Campaign Co-Chair, HUG2 Fulfillment Team, Endowment Board, Bible Study Teacher, New Member Class Teacher on Stewardship, Usher, Lector, Communion server, Financial Analysis and reporting for Board, Board Nominating Committee, Board member for 3 years, Mission MAT.

What skills and experience do you bring to serving this Board?

CPA and MBA, professional administrative and Board facilitating skills, Financial Analysis and Strategic Planning, Crisis Management skills, wealth of experience in governance, biblical and spiritual devotion and prayer life, proactive/action oriented.

Any other information you would like to share with the congregation:

We love Trinity DT and the great community of faith. We have been blessed by the spiritual nourishment and guidance. We have enjoyed strong fellowship and we bear each other's burdens. We are devoted to God's kingdom. We personally cheerfully give both time and possessions and we use these gifts from God to further His Kingdom.



Nominee: Ross Krueger

Age: 27

Years as a Trinity Member: 3 years

Occupation: High School Math Teacher

Summarize your prior or present involvement in the church:

Ross currently serves Trinity through his participation in the music ministry and as a lay reader. In the music ministry he has been a regular participant in the Sanctuary Choir as well as a soloist and as part of many ensembles. He has assisted with many service projects including Oktoberfest, Trunk or Treat, Christmas Pageants, and the Seder Dinner. He has also assisted with Kingdom Quest in various roles assisting with teaching the Bible lessons for the children's Bible study. Starting in this year Ross has also started to serve on the Concert Series MAT. Ross previously served as the Interim Music Teacher at Trinity Downtown Lutheran School during the Spring of 2017 and was a leader for the 2017 Summer Kids Camp. He regularly attends worship services and adult Bible study. During Trinity's transition to virtual worship services Ross helped provide music for worship services. Ross looks forward to continuing to contribute to the mission of the church.

What skills and experience do you bring to serving this Board?

Ross looks forward to serving Trinity using his collaborative leadership skills he has developed through many avenues. Ross is a certified teacher and is a graduate of Texas Tech University where he studied Math, Physics and Music. One of the ways he developed his leadership skills was by serving as President of a Christian fraternity, Kappa Upsilon Chi. As President of his Christian fraternity he worked to plan how to best utilize the fraternity's time and talents to serve God's will in the Texas Tech community. He has also learned to collaborate with others through his teaching career. In teaching he has worked to synthesize the ideas and best practices from other experienced teachers to unite upon one course of action. In addition to these leadership skills he was raised in a Lutheran family which was led by his father who has gone on to become a studied and published Lutheran liturgist. His foundation in the core values of our faith was started at a very early age. Ross looks forward to serving the board using his skills in collaboration, leadership and his strong background in the Lutheran faith.

Any other information you would like to share with the congregation:

Ross looks forward to serving his church in this new way. As we find how to best worship, grow and live in these turbulent times Ross is hopeful for our future. He is excited to bring his perspective to the board and share in the decision-making process as we continue to joyfully share Christ's love with all people now!



Nominee: Cassandra (Cassie) McGarvey

Age: 39

Years as a Trinity Member: 35ish

Occupation: Attorney

Summarize your prior or present involvement in the church:

Trinity is my home and I've grown up in this church. We joined Trinity at the recommendation of my great aunt. I attended Trinity Lutheran School (c/o 1995) and later graduated from Lutheran High North (c/o 1999). During my time at Trinity, I have participated in Sunday School, youth group, and volunteered for Vacation Bible School (although many years ago). Recently, I have not been as involved as I would like. Prior to March, my goal was to be involved in adult Bible study classes and to bring my children to church and Bible study.

What skills and experience do you bring to serving this Board?

On a professional level, I am an experienced real estate attorney and business owner. I understand how businesses work and can provide practical reasoning in assistance in making business decisions for the church. I understand Texas law regarding non-profit organizations and, while I will not be providing legal advice in connection with my service on the board, I would be offering my opinion from my legal background. Also, I've spent a significant amount of time to understand general business operations and financial issues. As a business owner, I understand the decisions that need to be made and how those decisions can impact the organization.

Additionally, I have served on other non-profit boards before. Currently, I serve on the board of directors for the Houston Volunteer Lawyers. Additionally, I have served as a committee chair for the Houston Bar Association Law Week Fun Run Committee and the Houston Bar Association Real Estate Section. As such, prior board experience means that I understand my obligations and responsibilities.

I have experience working with and/or volunteering with other organizations within the Houston-Lutheran community. I've been involved with Lutheran South Academy and have relationships with leaders at Hope Lutheran Church in Friendswood. I've also been involved with LINC Houston.

As a mother of three young children (ages 8, 6, and 3), I bring a different perspective to the board. My husband and I are in the thick of caring for young children. I have a slightly different experience and would provide this outlook to the board.

Any other information you would like to share with the congregation:

It would be an incredible honor to serve on the board. Trinity is a part of me and I'm immensely grateful for the role that Trinity has played in my life. I'm excited about the possibility of serving on the board and ensuring that Trinity can be the same blessing to others. In this regard, I want to make sure that Trinity continues to grow and allow my kids to experience the same type of environment that I had.

As for general biographical information: I've been married to James McGarvey for 13 years and we have three children, Clara (8), Lorelei (6), and William (3). Clara and Lorelei are students in Friendswood, transitioning from attending Lutheran South Academy for PK3 through Kindergarten. William is currently in PK3 at Lutheran South Academy. We live in Friendswood, Texas.

I attended Trinity Lutheran School and Lutheran High North. I graduated from the University of St. Thomas in 2003 and University of Houston Law Center in 2006. I am a double board certified

attorney with specializations in Residential and Commercial Real Estate. I formed my law firm in February 2020.

When not spending time with my family or working, I'm an avid runner and athlete. I enjoy swimming, biking, and running. Most recently, I've started weight lifting to combat the running injuries. I've completed three IronMan triathlons, more than a dozen marathons, and numerous shorter distance races.



Nominee: Lisa Meier

Age: 58

Years Trinity Member: 6

Occupation: RN

Summarize your prior or present involvement in the church:

I have served our community in various ways during the years. Prior to COVID, I helped with the University of Houston Campus Ministry, Hurricane Harvey relief, Trunk or Treat, and even cleaning Buffalo Bayou. My husband and I support the Homeless Ministry by assisting with the annual Christmas lunches and supplying gift boxes. Since I have been furloughed, I have been able to participate weekly with the Sack Lunch Ministry. We also check in people at the Satellite Service as requested. I have been involved in a Ladies Bible Study for 5 years now and have formed some wonderful relationships.

What skills and experience do you bring to serving this Board?

I have held many types of nursing jobs in my career, from support to managerial. My focus has always been on the elderly and I would like to continue to serve this population. I am able to see problems in terms of how they affect people and to see solutions that benefit the most people. I am task oriented and organized. I believe that flexibility is essential if our church is to move forward. I am eager to see how God is evolving our church.

Any other information you would like to share with the congregation:

I have been married to my husband Philip for 30+ years. We have 2 adult children who live in Texas. His job has taken us to Australia and now to the Heights. We enjoy the outdoors, National parks and general traveling. Trinity Downtown has really been a blessing in our lives and I look forward to serving in the future.



Nominee: Mary Jane Rogers

Age: 76

Years Trinity Member: 31

Occupation: Retired

Summarize your prior or present involvement in the church:

I was not born into Trinity. I went a different route. Coming from a Baptist background, with my husband to be, Allen Rogers, a Catholic, we found the Lutheran faith after we married in 1961.

When we joined Trinity 31 years ago, we chose the "Best."

Shortly after we joined Trinity, Pastor Wagner asked me to get involved in service to Trinity. With my love of baking, I chose to provide fresh home-baked goodies for the Discovery class and have continued this ministry to this day.

When Allen passed away in 2013 I founded the "Peace Filled Quilters" to honor his memory. Our little group of 12-15 dedicated ladies has gifted over 175 beautiful handcrafted quilts to date to Trinity's seriously ill members and family members.

I am also a member of the Facilities Maintenance MAT. I'm proud to serve alongside a group of business professionals committed to the upkeep of our buildings and Trinity property.

What skills and experience do you bring to serving this Board?

In my business and professional career, I was blessed to work for a prominent Houston family-owned oil and gas exploration company. Early on I worked in accounting for many years, land/lease and finally spent my last 16 years as office manager for one of the owner's companies. I was in charge of maintaining beautiful offices with fine antiques and artwork, personnel offices, furniture, and equipment, as well as phone systems and day to day operations of running a busy downtown office.

I was in charge of renovations of office space and moves within our offices, as well as the restoration of offices after hurricanes. Yes, high rise offices are affected by water damage to floors and drywall from high wind and water seeping in from window sills.

I retired after 46 years. Wheee.....

Any other information you would like to share with the congregation:

This is all about one member's sincere commitment to Trinity service. I think I can be a positive influence on the Governing Board with my life experiences, my positive attitude, and outlook for the future of Trinity. To me, Trinity will always be the "Best."



Nominee: Cynthia Hornstein Roney

Age: 62

Years Trinity Member: 12 years

Occupation: Pipeline Regulatory Advisor

Summarize your prior or present involvement in the church:

I am completing my third year as a member of the Governing Board, and second year serving as Secretary. It has been a rewarding and inspirational experience to work with fellow Christians to help Trinity bring God's message to our community. I also help to coordinate the activities of the PEP Club (when we are not grounded by Covid-19) and serve as a lay reader, greeter, and Welcome Desk volunteer. As a member of the HUG2 Fulfillment Committee, I kept the congregation informed and inspired with monthly newsletter reporting. For We Declare His Mighty Acts capital campaign, I served as a Co-chair and once again on the Fulfillment Committee. I am earnestly trying to grow as a disciple at my work and in my community as Christ has commanded.

What skills and experience do you bring to serving this Board:

I have prior experience in leadership positions for non-profit organizations which rely entirely upon volunteers to fulfill their missions. I served for 5 years on the Women's Energy Network National Board of Directors and for 6 years on the Interstate Pipeline Regulatory Steering Committee. This type of leadership teaches the value of active listening to many points of view while remaining focused

on the bigger picture of the goal. In my work, I've managed large capital projects involving complex negotiations and strict deadlines which rely upon analytical abilities, attention to detail, and ability to compromise for the good of the overall project.

Any other information you would like to share with the congregation:

I am an engineering graduate of Texas A & M. My husband and I have been married for 42 years and have two sons. Our son Carlin and daughter-in-law Amanda are members of Trinity with their son Benjamin.

Nominees for 2021 Nominating Committee

Bill Fischer

Curtis Knisley

Joshua Rodriguez

Elizabeth Stoerker

David Jenthon

John Menke

George Sacaris



GRATITUDE game

Start a fun tradition by playing this game on Thanksgiving.

What you need:

- M&M's or other colored candies
- A bowl
- The list below (adapt the colors, as needed)

Red: a need God has provided for
Orange: a gift you've received
Yellow: something you've recently learned
Green: something in nature
Blue: a special memory
Brown: someone you love

What you do:

1. One at a time, people pick a candy and share what they're thankful for (according to the color).
2. Pass the bowl around and continue reflecting on God's goodness until all the candy is gone!

Help bring joy this season

Buy your gifts at AmazonSmile and Amazon donates





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):

<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!

November 1st - All Saints' Day

On November 1st, we will celebrate All Saints' Day in Trinity's Sanctuary service. We will be celebrating and remembering the life and faith of all of our members who have gone on to the LORD in heaven since All Saints' Sunday in 2019.

This year, we will be remembering thirteen members who lived and loved in the faith and strength of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



Ronald Glen Mitchell
October 14, 1954 -
February 10, 2020



Alton E. Behrend
July 31, 1921 -
February 11, 2020



Rose Emily Barton
July 7, 1944 -
March 13, 2020



Julie Drews May
July 14, 1957 -
March 28, 2020



**William (Bill) Dane
Rutherford**
July 25, 1935 -
May 19, 2020



**Marion Emory
Eickenhorst**
May 31, 1937 -
June 10, 2020



**Albert Theodore
Taube**
November 25, 1933 -
June 11, 2020



**Roseline "Babs"
Hortense Pillaert**
July 2, 1943 -
July 5, 2020



**Clara Ophelia Phillips
Proske**
March 29, 1937 -
August 28, 2020



**Carolyn J. Phelps
Busch**
May 18, 1935 -
September 2, 2020



**Shannon Morris
Boatman**
November 28, 1926 -
September 12, 2020



**Carol Elaine Trimble
Kieschnick**
May 4, 1946 -
September 21, 2020



**Wayne Lewis
Tennison**
February 17, 1938 -
October 9, 2020



Online Bible Study Opportunities

Bible Study classes are meeting via video teleconference. To join a class, go to <https://www.trinitydt.org/bible-study/> and click on the class you would like to join. A few minutes before the study is to begin, click on the JOIN CLASS button.



SUNDAYS

Confirmation Class (7th-9th grades)

Led by Mary Oliver and Haley Davisson - 10:30 a.m.

The Confirmation program seeks to help 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students own their faith. In the course, each student will learn the key truths of the Christian church as they prepare to confirm the faith into which they were baptized. The class will equip each student to apply their faith for life and provide a foundation for an ongoing relationship with God.

Foundations 56 (5th-6th grades) - 10:30 a.m.

Led by Jane Suchma & Karen Maynard

Online Kids Interactive Experience. (Note: To join this class go to <https://www.trinitydt.org/youth-ministries/>.)

Journey Into Prayer

Led by Pastor Paul Dorn - 7:00 p.m.

Learning from Jesus and His prayers—the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6 and His high priestly prayer in John 17.

One Nation Under God - Healing Racial Divides

Led by Jim Cleary and Reggie & Deena Buford - 10:30 a.m.

Racial division has always been a reality in our country. At times, It has erupted into protests, violence, arson, and looting. Distrust and suspicions arise on both sides. We are all creatures of God, equally children of Adam and Eve and created in the image of God. That image is an important unifying force that defines our shared human identity. God loves the beautiful diversity of His human creation as much as He loves the vast array of plants and animals He has created. Most importantly, His Son, Jesus Christ, has redeemed each and every one of us. This study pulls back the covers over the racial issues that divide us so that we can better understand one another and search the Scriptures for a hopeful path forward. Class is discussion oriented.

The Devil's Schemes

Led by Thomas DeVries - 10:30 a.m.

You've learned a lot about life since first you pledged your faith as an adult member of the Church. Now you can join a group that is exploring the facts, assumptions and uncertainties that may not have been covered during confirmation class. Our conversations will go beyond Lutheran doctrine to include apologetic and theological frameworks. It's a safe place to ask questions that need more exploring than simply answering "because the Bible told me so."

Wise Up and Live - The Book of Proverbs

Led by Bill Fischer's Team - 10:30 a.m.

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!"

WEDNESDAYS

Sinners and Saints (Women's Study)

Led by Jan Case - 9:30 a.m.

There is a lot of confusion about what it means to be a sinner and a saint. "Sinners and Saints" will give you an insight into how you are both, and ultimately, how you can come to a deeper understanding of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Conversations with Jesus (Women's Study)

Led by Mary Oliver - 6:30 p.m.

The Wednesday Evening Women's Bible Study will spend the fall season reading and discussing some of the conversations Jesus had with individuals in the Gospels. We will look at the context of the meetings as well as studying the Old Testament teachings Jesus references in these interactions. We will cover a new conversation each week, so please join us when you are able.

Virtual Midweek Spiritual Check-in

Led by Jim Cleary - 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAYS

Sonrise Bible Study

Led by Pastor Donald Black - 7:30 a.m.

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.

40 Days For Life

A BIG THANK YOU to Delmas Heinke, Ruth and Gary Schmidt, Mary Campbell, Ethelene Marshall, Jean Minsch, Lorraine McKinney, Pastor and Audrey Black, Thelma Deterling and Jan Case for going out to Planned Parenthood to stand and pray for the unborn on Tuesday, October 13th. We will never know if any hearts were changed by our presence - but God knows! And ultimately, that's the only thing that is important! Ethelene Marshall did say she caused two ladies to go into our bus rather than into the center so possibly two little babies were saved! I would ask you to talk to these volunteers about their experiences to see if this is something you could do. The need is so great! Babies are being aborted in astounding numbers!

We are also in great need for people to help with the "Baby Blanket Ministry". If you are willing to help cut, sew or crochet PLEASE call me, Jan Case, at 713.677.4286 or email to jcase001@gmail.com.



Are You Experiencing Pandemic Fatigue?

Are you experiencing pandemic fatigue—that feeling of being mentally and emotionally exhausted with everything that's going on right now? You aren't alone; we're all facing different kinds of life challenges during this time—

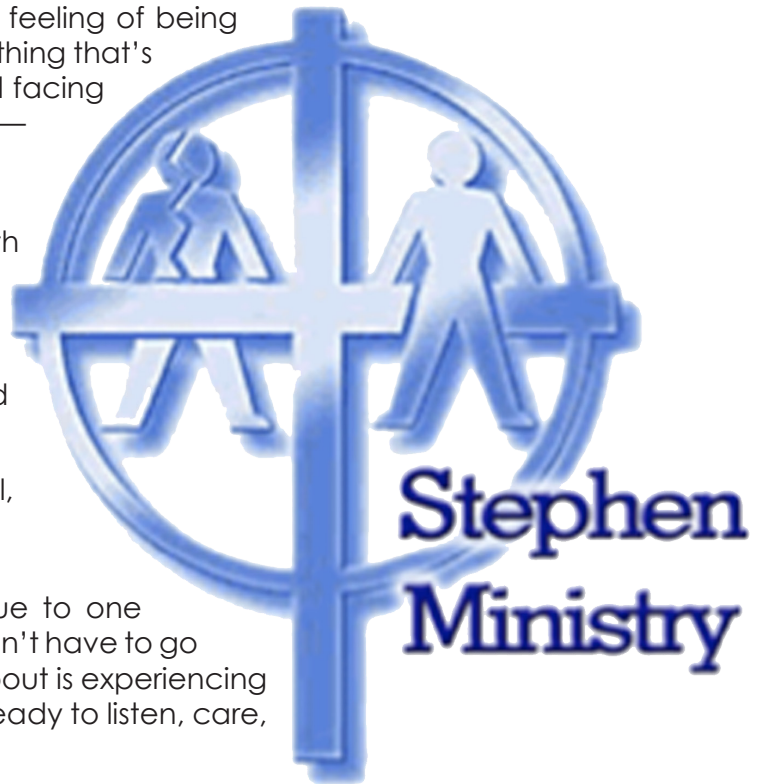
- Feelings of isolation and loneliness;
- Anxiety over our own health or the health of our family and friends;
- Feelings of grief or loss;
- Difficulties juggling work, childcare, and schooling responsibilities;
- Financial strain or job loss; and most of all,
- Uncertainty about the future

We probably ALL suffer from pandemic fatigue to one degree or another. The good news is that you don't have to go through it alone. If you or someone you care about is experiencing difficulties like these, our Stephen Ministers are ready to listen, care, encourage, and be there to offer support.

Stephen Ministers are commissioned members of our congregation who have received 50 hours of specialized training to equip them to provide Christ-focused, highly confidential care and prayer support to people experiencing a crisis, facing a challenge or simply going through a tough time.

A Stephen Minister will meet with you privately—by phone or video chat, (or possibly, in-person when it's safe to do so) to focus on you and your needs. It's free and completely confidential, and it offers real care, comfort, and hope.

During these stressful times, if you'd like to learn more about how our Stephen Ministry could provide a listening ear and caring heart for yourself, a loved one, friend, neighbor or co-worker (inside or outside our congregation) please speak with one of our pastors, or reach out to Ron Lacy at rlacy@trinitydt.org or 713.229.2970.



**Life
got
you
down?**



**Stephen Ministry provides
confidential, compassionate
Christian care.**

**For more information,
contact Ron Lacy at
713-229-2970 or
rlacy@trinitydt.org.**

Chrismons - Advent Sermon Series

Monograms are two or more letters that are combined to form a symbol or logo. They are used by countries, companies, and colleges. Your favorite sports team likely has a monogram. People use them to personalize stationary, luggage, clothing and even keeping track of their underwear. The earliest known examples of monograms can be found on coins dating back to 350BC. Over the centuries, monograms of the name of Jesus Christ have been used as Christian symbols and are called Christograms.

In 1957, Frances Kipps Spencer, a member of Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, VA, came across drawings of Christograms. She saw how they could be used to tell the story of the Gospel at Christmas time which led her to the idea of using them to decorate a Christmas tree. Frances called the symbols she put on the tree "Chrismons" a combination of "CHRIST" and "MONogram."

Using Chrismons to decorate Christmas trees quickly became popular in congregations across the country. They are traditionally colored white and gold (the liturgical colors for Christmas symbolizing Jesus' purity and perfection). Chrismons can be made from nearly anything but mostly commonly include the use of styrofoam and beads.



Many years ago the ladies of Trinity Downtown made Chrismons to decorate the trees in the Sanctuary. However, in the recent past these decorations have been put on a smaller tree in the Foyer. This year the Chrismons will be used again in the Sanctuary and these decorations will be the focus of the Advent Sermon Series. A team from the congregation is also making Chrismon kits so that you can make a Chrismon for your tree at home. The kits will be available beginning in mid-November and can be delivered to your home if you are unable to pick one up at church.

An explanation of a Chrismon will be included with each Sunday message during Advent. In addition there will be a brief daily devotional that you can watch on demand online about one of the Chrismons. These daily devotionals will replace the in-person mid-week Advent services typically held at Trinity Downtown on Wednesdays. While this may be an unusual year, the Worship Team hopes that this Advent series will be very meaningful and lead to a joyful celebration of Christ's birth.



First Communion

Congratulations to the following students who received their First Communion in September.

*Ansley Rose Carl
Benjamin John Garrett
John Francis Leonard II
Anna Elise Luckow*

*Ryan Alexis Lyda
Mark Aldan Andrew Menke
Elkan Alan Vandenberg*

Christmas Worship — Make Your Reservation Beginning December 1st

On December 24th this year there will be three services at 3:00, 5:00, and 7:00 p.m. in order to accommodate members and guests who want to worship in person on Christmas Eve. The decision to add a third service was based on the results of a recent survey of the congregation (thanks to all who took a few minutes to complete the Christmas survey). Due to COVID safety protocols seating will be limited in the Sanctuary at each service so RSVPs will be very important. The Christmas survey indicated what has been



historically true at Trinity Downtown, the most popular worship time is 5:00 p.m. If you have flexibility on December 24th to worship at another time, please choose 3:00 or 7:00 p.m. For those who are not comfortable attending in-person on Christmas Eve, streaming and on demand options will be available. The Christmas Eve service will follow the traditional format of Lessons & Carols and will include a candle lighting ceremony. However, there will not be a pageant with live animals this year.

On Christmas Day, December 25th there will be one service at 9:00 a.m. that will be both in-person and live streamed with on demand available too. This Festival Service will be in a similar format as previous years with special music and beloved carols.

You will be able to make reservations for Christmas Eve/Day worship beginning on December 1st. Once the Sanctuary capacity limit has been reached those attempting to make a reservation will be instructed to select another worship time. Please be considerate of others by reserving only as many seats as are needed. If you are unable to attend at the time selected, please notify the church office as soon as possible so that the seating is available for others. Reserved seating will be released 10 minutes before the start of worship, so don't be late.

While the Governing Board and Administrative Staff are regularly evaluating the level of protocols required to protect those who attend worship in person, it is anticipated that reservations, temperature checks, health questions, and masks will still be required at Christmas time. If you are able to help with the screening process on Christmas Eve or Day, please contact Jean Minsch via email at jaminsch@yahoo.com.

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Homeless Christmas Lunch Adapting to COVID Restrictions

TrinityDowntown has traditionally provided a sit-down Christmas meal for those in our community who are suffering from being homeless. Typically serving over 125 individuals, we provide a restaurant-style "home cooked" meal with all the trimmings. Congregants prepared shoe boxes filled with socks, toiletries and other useful items that were distributed to the participants, and Christmas carols were sung while volunteers served the food to each guest.



Unfortunately, COVID-related concerns will mean that we must change the format of this great tradition for just this year. For 2020, we're planning on providing:

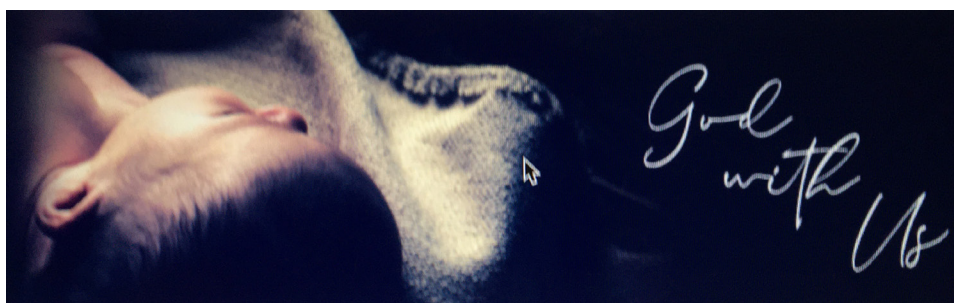
- A nice boxed meal from a commercial provider that we can distribute in a socially-distanced manner (similar to the method we use to distribute sack lunches);
- A \$25 gift card the recipient may use to purchase useful items but cannot be converted into cash.

We estimate the cost of this package for each individual will be \$45.00.

We'll be providing additional details over the coming days and weeks. In the meantime, if you'd like to contribute toward the cost of this ministry, you can give [online](#) to the fund labeled "Homeless Ministry".

"God with Us" - Advent Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries

What better news is there than to know that God is always by our side! In *God with Us*, we learn again what God the Father has done—He has kept His promise. In so doing, He has announced that grace and forgiveness are available to all, freely given in the birth of Jesus: God's Son, our Savior. He is Immanuel, "God with us."



The story of God coming to earth as a human child is a profound one. In *God with Us*, we find no aloof divinity who is unconcerned and remote somewhere in the cosmos. Rather, He is deeply involved in all our affairs—our joys as well as our heartaches. He knows us for He became one of us. At Christmastime, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, Lord of the universe, Savior of the world, Shepherd of our lives. Printed devotional booklets will be available November 22nd and [online](#) devotions begin November 29th.

Daily Devotions from LHM will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others. Have them [delivered right to your inbox](#), [podcast the audio devotional](#), access them on your mobile device through the [FREE app](#), or listen with [Spotify](#), [iHeart Radio](#), [Alexa](#), or [Google Home](#).

Greetings from Westfield House, Cambridge!

Yes, you read that, correctly! I am now in the UK and out of quarantine. Classes have begun, though they have all been online so far. In some respects, a lot has happened since my last update. In other respects, not much has happened because I've done a lot of sitting in front of my laptop!

Stephanie and I have been very blessed through this whole process by the generous support of our families – letting us stay in their houses, sharing their food with us, giving us their time, and loving us. We had a relatively easy time getting through the flight, the ride from London to Cambridge, and the stay in self-isolation (that's what they call quarantine over here). We're still adapting to the very different approach to classes, though.

Whereas American universities are heavily focused on lectures, the British system has a much smaller focus on lectures. Instead, they focus on small group interactions called 'supervisions.' Although it sounded a bit like micromanaging to me at first, I now appreciate the approach more. The learning is much more open-ended here and these small group sessions allow a more personal interaction with a tutor – much more than a grad student who is earning some money on the side. These tutors are often teachers in their own right and offer detailed analysis of each student's writing.

That's a very good thing because we're almost exclusively assessed based on our writing. In other words, we don't get quizzes or multiple-choice tests at the end of our courses. No, we write essays. Even the courses which are listed as being assessed 'by exam' are still writing exams. The answers we write are just a bit shorter, apparently.

In any case, it will be interesting to see how these supervisions go over the next several months. We were initially overwhelmed by the amount of reading that was posted for us to go through for each class. We found out that it is not expected that we read everything. In fact, it seems that the overabundance of potential books, articles, and excerpts to read is to facilitate each student being able to pursue their own particular area of interest in the subject. For instance, out of eight readings posted for one lecture, I may only read one. And I may not even read the entire work. We are slowly learning to be selective in our reading.

In terms of classes, it is probably a bit too early to share too much of what we've learned. As we go through our lectures and readings, I get various impressions. In some cases, the classes seem very similar to classes I've already had at the seminary. So, that seems a bit disappointing. But I expect that as we get farther into the term, there will be more depth. Plus, many of the classes are heavily based on the Anglican viewpoint since they are the largest partner in the Theological Federation here. Westfield House is a very new member of the Federation, so most of the professors have been quite unfamiliar with Confessional Lutheran doctrine and practice. This allows us to get some insight into other traditions and perhaps pass on some of our own prior knowledge.

In other cases, we've felt in over our heads with the philosophical content. Stephanie dove into Freud while I read some more contemporary philosophers. Those were different classes, but we were both bewildered by the language these intellectuals use. I am simultaneously fascinated and repulsed by these philosophical writings. My background in engineering makes me scratch my head at many of the questions they ask and the approaches they take to try to find truth. My training in the Christian Church makes me think that they are just blind to the truth that is right in front of them in the Church and Scripture. But I also want to make sure that I can take whatever is valuable from these thinkers through the ages. I expect my own reasoning and thinking will be sharpened as a result. At least, I sure hope they will!



**Chuck Ridley,
Seminary Student**

Aside from classes, Stephanie and I have been able to take a couple of walks into town. We are staying toward the outer ends of Cambridge, so we have to walk about ten minutes to get to the River Cam and cross over into the more historic area. Unfortunately, the colleges are closed except to their own students right now due to COVID restrictions. However, we did find out that we are able to book appointments to visit the chapels of certain colleges. That will be a goal for us over the next few months. Hopefully, the situation will get better and restrictions will ease up in the new year, allowing the colleges to open and restart Evensong services so that we can attend some of those.

In the meantime, we continue to adjust to this new, temporary phase of life, trying to make the most of our time here while also being diligent in our reading and writing. We are meeting new people and slowly getting to meet some of our classmates face-to-face. My first supervision is even in person! I may even regain a consistent sense of which day it is...

Until next month, I pray that you are all keeping safe and healthy. Enjoy your socially distanced Reformation celebrations, All Saints commemorations, and possibly even Thanksgiving celebrations if I don't write before then! We have a couple of trips scheduled with our fellow exchange students over the next month, so there should be a few pictures.

"And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God." (Philippians 1:9-11, ESV)

In Christ,
Chuck Ridley



We enjoyed a traditional cream tea with house-made scones with our Westfield House principal and fellow DTM students after a casual tour of the town.

Drive-Up Holy Communion

Wednesdays
11:00 am - 1 pm

Saturdays
9:30 am - 11:00 am

Call the Church Office
at 713-224-0684
8:30 am - 2:15 pm
Monday - Friday
to RSVP



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1 2:00 AM



**Don't forget
to set your
clocks back
one hour.**

A Life Quote for the Church Year - November 22 – Last Sunday after Pentecost

“‘As you did it to one of the least of these My brothers, you did it to Me’ (Matthew 25:40). Jesus has consecrated your life in His incarnation and crucifixion. And in the same way He has sanctified every human life, no matter what age, appearance, or ability. When we behold our unborn neighbors, when we care for incapacitated ones, when we advocate for embryos or elderly, we encounter God.”



Life Is Sacred

This “Life Quote” is from *LifeDate*, a quarterly journal of news and commentary from Lutherans For Life – www.lutheransforlife.org

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Article submission deadline **November 13** for articles to be published December 1, 2020.

Submit articles to pschroeder@trinitydt.org.

Contact Pam Schroeder at 713.229.2944 with any questions about this publication.