



# Trinity Today

Vol. 23, No. 9

September 1, 2021

## Trinity Concert Series Presents Chelsea Chen in Concert Sunday, September 26 - 2:30 pm

Trinity Concert Series is pleased to present organist, Chelsea Chen, in concert on Sunday, September 26, 2021 at 2:30 pm at Trinity Lutheran, Downtown. There is no charge for this concert, although a free-will offering will be taken. Attend in person or livestream on Trinity Downtown's YouTube channel at "TrinityDowntownHTX."

With organ playing described as "stunning" and possessing "lyrical grandeur" (*Los Angeles Times*), Chelsea Chen has electrified audiences throughout the United States and Asia. A Fulbright scholar and graduate of The Juilliard School and Yale, she has performed to great acclaim at many important venues including Singapore's Esplanade, Hong Kong's Cultural Centre, Philadelphia's Kimmel Center, Los Angeles' Disney Hall, and Trinity Wall Street in Manhattan. The NYC concert was hailed by the *New York Times* as one of the top ten classical events of 2017.

Chen's solo concerts offer a unique mix of traditional organ repertoire along with piano/orchestral transcriptions and contemporary music. This concert will feature works by Henri Mulet, Claude Debussy, J. S. Bach, Felix Mendelssohn, Louis Vierne, Gustav Holst as well as one of her own compositions, *Taiwanese Suite*. She will be playing on Trinity's renovated 50-rank Holtkamp/Reuter pipe organ. This concert promises to be a musical delight you won't want to miss.



Contact Mary Voigt at [mvoigt@trinitydt.org](mailto:mvoigt@trinitydt.org) or 281.543.0407 for more information.

# Youth and Children's Ministries!

We had a great restart for both youth and children's Sunday School! Check out these pictures!





We are looking forward to lots of fun stuff in the fall with serving events for youth and Trunks 'n' Treats for children's ministry!

Praise God for His glorious presence!

Blessings,  
Haley Davison  
Director of Youth and Children's Ministries

# Remembrance Concert - 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11

Join singers from across Houston as we commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11 with a Remembrance concert. The concert will be held on Saturday, September 11, at 5:00 p.m. in Trinity's sanctuary. Dr. Paulo Gomes will direct the concert sponsored by Houston Masterworks Chorus.

Twenty years ago our world changed. Through beautiful music that sprung deeply from every composer's heart, we will mourn, comfort the mourners, and shine a light on the souls and hearts that left us.

Music transforms, uplifts, inspires and makes us ONE!



## Temporary Receptionist Needed

Trinity Downtown is in need of a temporary receptionist to work 10/25-10/28, 11/01-11/04, and 11/08-11/09 answering phones and greeting guests. Hours will be 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This is a paid position. Contact Trinity Garrett at [tgarrett@trinitydt.org](mailto:tgarrett@trinitydt.org) for more information or to apply.



## Join Us for the Fall Season of Sanctuary Choir & Trinity Bells



Rehearsals for the fall season of the Sanctuary Choir have been moved to begin Wednesday, September 8, at 7:15 p.m. in the choir loft. If you love to sing and can match pitch, we'd love to have you join us.

Trinity Bells are scheduled to begin full rehearsals on Wednesday, October 6, at 6:15 p.m. What if you've never played bells before? If you can read music, we can teach you to play bells. And we currently have some open positions just waiting for an eager volunteer. Need more information? Contact Mary Voigt at 281.543.0407.

A "Save the Dates" poster with a light blue and white bokeh background. The text "Save the Dates" is written in a large, elegant, black cursive font. Below it is a decorative flourish. The dates and events are listed in a bold, black, sans-serif font:

**September 11**  
**Remembrance Concert**  
**20th Anniversary of 9/11**

**September 26**  
**Chelsea Chen Organ**  
**Concert**

**October 9**  
**A Silent Movie with**  
**organist, Rob Landes**

**October 24**  
**Oktoberfest**

**October 29**  
**Trunks 'n' Treats**

# Blood Donor Sunday

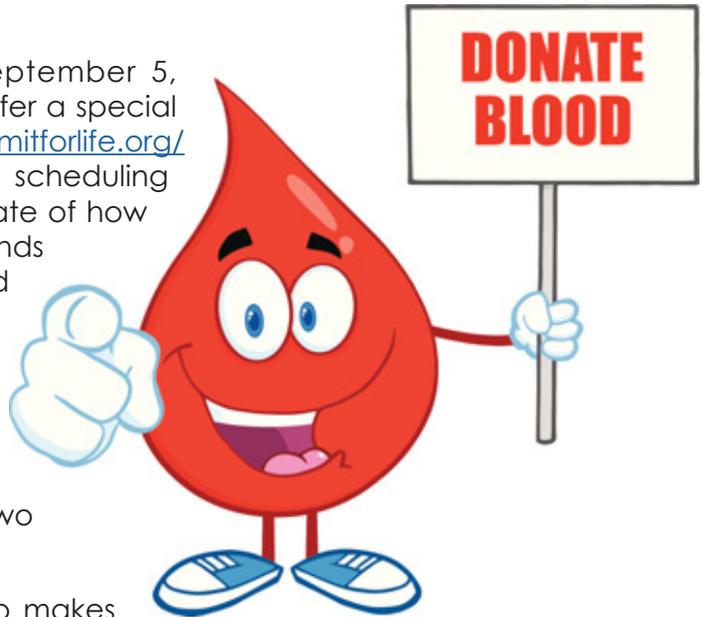
Our next Blood Donor Sunday will be held September 5, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the gym. If you would prefer a special time, please sign up online at [https://www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/337918](https://www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/337918). While scheduling an appointment ahead of time gives us an estimate of how many donors to expect and the Blood Center sends out the appropriate number of workers; an added bonus is we take scheduled appointments prior to walk-ups.

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.

Save time with the DIGITAL DONOR APP. The App makes it easy to find a blood drive, schedule your donation and answer the CFL Express Pass health history interview before you arrive.

REMINDER!! The minimum donor age requirement to give blood is 16 years old with a parent's permission. Weight must be 122 lbs. (still 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.



# Ladies Circle Prepares for Fall Schedule

Trinity Lutheran Ladies Circle is busy making plans for renewed ministry and activities with a meeting on Thursday, September 2, 2021, in the Mary/Martha Fellowship Hall.

An abbreviated business meeting beginning at 10 a.m. will include the election of a president.

At 11 a.m. an OktoberFest-themed event celebrating July, August, and September birthdays will be a "served" covered dish potluck luncheon. A few prizes will be given for the "best German wearable accessory."

At approximately 11:20 a.m. we will be entertained by the Katy Vocal Express. This women's barbershop a capella group will "WOW" us with their words of whimsy put to song. Their members who live in Katy, Cypress and surrounding areas are from the Texas Chapter of Sweet Adelines International.

Guests, including spouses, are welcome to come to the meeting at 10 a.m. or to come at 11 o'clock for the lunch and entertainment.

Please RSVP for the luncheon by August 31 to [tgarrett@trinitydt.org](mailto:tgarrett@trinitydt.org).

(Please see a related article on pages 8-9 about how you can participate with the Ladies Circle in the Lutheran World Relief Ingathering set for October 31, 2021.)



# Have a Heartbeat? Then You Have Problems!

*"If you have a heartbeat, then you will also have problems!"*  
Anonymous maxim

Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. Matthew 18:19 ESV

It sometimes seems that health challenges, job difficulties and stresses within our wider family are the only constants in our lives. That may be true, but God never intended for us to go through these challenges alone.

Do you have a concern or problem that you need to bring to the feet of our Lord?

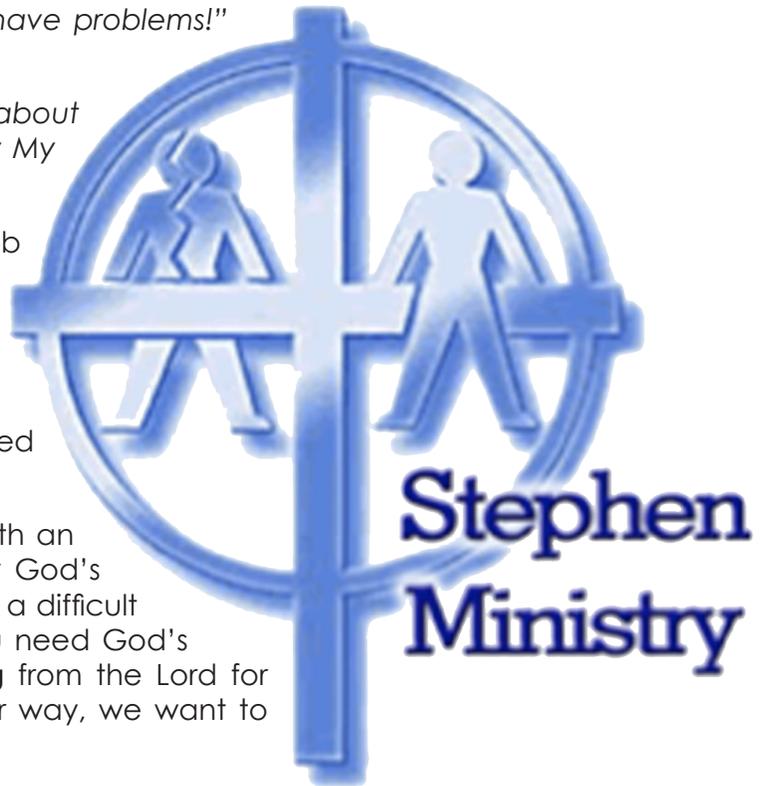
Perhaps you or a loved one are struggling with an **illness** or **loneliness**, and you want to ask for God's comfort and healing. Or maybe you're facing a difficult and potentially **life-altering decision**, and you need God's direction. Or, you've received a real **blessing** from the Lord for which you want to offer sincere thanks. Either way, we want to pray alongside you!

You can send your prayer request or praise report to us:

- via email to [prayer@trinitydt.org](mailto:prayer@trinitydt.org) or
- submit a prayer request online by going to <https://www.trinitydt.org/prayer-request/>

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.

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](mailto:rlacy@trinitydt.org) or 713.229.2970.



## Golf Cart Ministry

Have you seen our new golf cart?

We'd love to have you join our Golf Cart Team and help families safely cross the street from the LEAH Downtown Academy parking lot.

If you are interested or need more information, please contact Ron Mueller at 713.206.9773 or [goron1@msn.com](mailto:goron1@msn.com).



# Finance Corner - September 1, 2021

*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:19-21 NIV*

Dear Supporter of Trinity's Ministry:

Trinity Downtown's Fall Kick-off on August 21-22 was a joyful time with 264 in worship and with our Sunday School and adult Bible classes filled with children and adults eager to study God's Word. And the Holy Smokers BBQ team served over 240 meals at the lunch that followed the Sunday Bible study hour with delicious meat prepared in Trinity's new BBQ pit. It was a fantastic time of re-connection!

THANK YOU to those who participated in our "Summer Catch-up" offering; your generosity clearly made a big difference in greatly reducing our financial deficit. For the month of July, tithes and offerings were 26% (or roughly \$32,000) HIGHER than our monthly budget. However, total revenue for the year remains 1% (or roughly \$12,000) lower than our budget, and 10% less than the same period in 2020.

Our operational expenses in July were 4% (or roughly \$5,000) less than our monthly budget, and our year-to-date expenses were 1.5% less than what was budgeted. When compared with the same time period in 2020, expenses in 2021 were 0.7% (or \$6,500) more than what was incurred last year when we were in the midst of the COVID shutdown due to lower staff costs in 2021 offset by a faster pace of ministry activities.

Our weekly attendance in July averaged 376, which was 14% lower than July of 2020. Online attendees comprised 49% of our worship attendance in July, while in July of 2020 100% of attendance was online. We had an average of 93 attending (almost exclusively online) Adult Bible study or Sunday School each week.

Your continued generosity is making a real difference in Trinity's impact and outreach to our community, as God works His work among us.

It's an honor to serve you,  
Ron Lacy, CFO



**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!

# Lutheran World Relief

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) is an organization which works with Lutherans and partners around the world to end poverty, injustice and human suffering. LWR was created in 1945 to provide relief to Europe after World War II and has continued providing help and support to over 4 million people through 133 projects in 42 countries including Philippines, Syria, and South Sudan. When disaster strikes, LWR provides life-saving relief and support to those most in need and continues long after the headlines have faded, working with communities to rebuild their lives and recover their livelihoods. LWR, along with local partners, helps people to have access to clean water and health care, teaches people about water management, diseases of poverty, and agricultural techniques, and provides people with the skills to participate in the decision making processes that affect their lives. Small-scale farmers have access to markets through LWR such as Fair Trade Coffee and Fair Trade Chocolate. LWR is part of the Lutheran Malaria Initiative to eliminate deaths from malaria in Africa. To learn more about LWR, go to [www.lwr.org](http://www.lwr.org). Ladies Circle Ministries members support LWR by making quilts throughout the year, assembling the kits of care, and collecting cancelled stamps to donate to "Project Comfort" to help pay shipping costs of the quilts and kits. The Lutheran World Relief Ingathering will be Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup> to gather and send the quilts and kits to LWR. Please bring your kits to church by Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup> and put them in the LWR container in the church office.



## PERSONAL CARE KITS

- 1 bath-size towel (approximately 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- 2 bath-size bars (4 to 5 ounces each) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping



- 1 adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging\*
- 1 sturdy comb, remove packaging
- 1 metal nail clippers, remove packaging

\*Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing the individual toothbrush in a business envelope; no plastic bags or wrap

Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. All items should be new or in good condition. Wrap all items in the towel and tie securely with ribbons or yarns. Do not use any plastic bags.

## SCHOOL KITS

- 4 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10½"; no looseleaf paper

- 1 30-cm ruler or ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other side; pack in a notebook
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- 5 unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- 5 black/blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- 1 box 16 or 24 crayons
- 1 2½" eraser
- 1 sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag, approximately 14" x 17" with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks)



Do not add other items or leave out any item listed. All items should be new and in good condition. Remove excess packaging; pack all items in bag and close. Do not enclose the kit or any of its items in plastic bags.

Donated items should not have any religious symbols, messages or Trinity's name or be decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.

### **BABY CARE KITS**

- 2 light weight cotton t-shirts (no Onesies®)
- 2 long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- 2 receiving blankets, medium weight cotton or flannel or crocheted or knitted with light weight yarn, up to 52" square
- 4 cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- 1 jacket, sweater, or sweatshirt with hood, or include a baby cap
- 2 pairs of socks
- 1 hand towel, dark color recommended
- 2 bath-size bars (4 to 5 ounces each) of gentle soap, in original wrapping
- 2 diaper pins or large safety pins

Sizes up to 24 months may be used. Varying sizes of the clothing items will make the Baby Care Kit useful as the baby grows. Sweaters with buttons or tie down the front are preferred. Diapers can be made from flannel. Gently used, clean items (no stains or tears) may be substituted for new ones. Wrap items in one of the receiving blankets and secure with diaper pins. Do not enclose the kit or any of its items in plastic bags.



### **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
Tim Grady . . . . .	<a href="mailto:timlgrady@aol.com">timlgrady@aol.com</a> . . . . .	281.639.0036
Dan Krueger . . . . .	<a href="mailto:dwkrueger5@yahoo.com">dwkrueger5@yahoo.com</a> . . . . .	901.258.4029

# Children, Youth and Adult Bible Studies

Please consider joining one or more of our Bible studies. It's a wonderful way to begin a new spiritual discipline. Virtual login information is available on Trinity's website [www.trinitydt.org](http://www.trinitydt.org). Children and youth classes are in person unless indicated otherwise. Adult classes are either virtual, in person or hybrid.

## SUNDAYS - CHILDREN (10:15 - 11:15 AM)

**Nursery** (Infants - age 2) - Room 234

**Kingdom Quest 2 & 3 year olds** - Room 233

**Kingdom Quest 4 & 5 year olds** - Room 232

**Kingdom Quest 1st Grade - 4th Grade** - Kingdom Hall (basement)

**Casa de Oracion Spanish** (all grades) - Room 209

## SUNDAYS - YOUTH (10:15 - 11:15 AM)

**Foundations 56** (5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades) - Room 207

**Confirmation** (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades) - Room 208 - Hybrid

**High School** (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) - Underground (basement)

## SUNDAYS - ADULT

### A Study of the Gospels

Led by Pastor Jose Flores of Casa de Oracion - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 211 - In Person

This study of the life of Jesus as shared in the Gospels is offered in Spanish for the community of Trinity Downtown, our ministry partner Casa de Oracion, and downtown Houston.

### Acts

Led by Pastor Paul Dorn - 7:00-8:00 PM - Virtual

As we journey through the book of Acts, we will read how the Word of the Lord Jesus Christ grew and the number of those who believed the Word increased mightily. It is in that Word that Christ will confront us also—strengthening our faith in Him and encouraging us to be His witnesses in Houston, in Texas, and to the end of the earth.

### Faith Discovery

Led by Pastor Michael Dorn - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 123 - In Person (Begins September 12)

The Faith Discovery class offers an opportunity to learn more about the Christian faith and how you can become part of the Trinity Downtown community as we each live out our faith every day. Class participants will discover how God has uniquely gifted them, and how they, in turn, can use their gifts in service to Him and to our neighbors.

### Martin Luther's Back Story

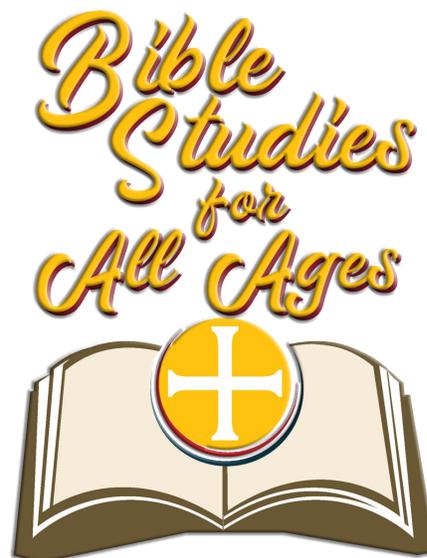
Led by Thomas DeVries and Anthony Flaviani - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 206 - In Person

We spend a lot of time studying Martin Luther's life and works starting with the 95 Theses, but what about that seminal event that brought him to the monastery? What can we learn of the Will of God, of the Divine Call and of the other, more local forces acting on Luther, similar to what we may face, that was crucial to the formation of the theology we know today?

### Return and Re-Connect: A Study of Ezra and Nehemiah

Led by Bill Fischer - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 201 - Hybrid

This study is based on the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. Some Jews were returning from the Babylonian Captivity to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple and the walls of the city. There may be some learning points in their journey and ours as we return to the life of our Current Normal as the Pandemic lessens.



### **The Bible Alive ... God In Action**

Led by John Reisig - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 124 - In Person

In this study, each Sunday offers a single stand alone topic. The material covered each week will provide a meaningful experience for regular participants, visitors to Trinity Downtown, and for those simply looking to get back into a routine of attending Bible study. The single topic format insures that no one will be lost or feel behind during the study, and will feel welcome and encouraged to attend at any time. Bibles will be provided and utilized each week. Providing historical context to the scriptural message, and modern application of His word, the Bible will "Come Alive," and show that God has been working throughout history, and is still working today out of love for His people.

### **The Work of the Holy Spirit**

Led by Jim Cleary - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 205 - Hybrid

Confused about what exactly the Holy Spirit does? Join us as we examine passages regarding the work of the Spirit this Pentecost season.

In this weekly study, Jim asks questions, some of which are understandable, and the class has a good time discussing them. Each week we discuss a passage in the Bible.

### **TUESDAYS - ADULTS**

#### **Your Strong Suit: Women's Bible Study on God's Armor (Women's Study)** (Begins September 14)

Led by Karen Maynard - 10:00-11:30 AM - Room 205 - Hybrid

This eight week, verse-by-verse study of the armor of God details the incredible protection that God has provided to His children. Even though we may not like discussing spiritual warfare, it is necessary because it is real. Spiritual warfare has the potential to rob us of peace and security only to leave behind doubt and unrest. But God offers protection to us – HIS protection. Journey through this study as we learn about the battle, our enemy, our armor and our place in God's army. But most importantly, we come to know the rock solid truth that God has provided everything we need to proclaim ultimate victory.

### **WEDNESDAYS - ADULTS**

#### **Bless These Lips (Women's Study)**

Led by Jan Case - 1:30-3:00 PM - Virtual

This small group Women's Bible Study is based upon the book *Bless These Lips: Make Over Your Words to Influence The World*.

#### **The Chosen Season One: What Does It Mean to Be Chosen? (Women's Study)**

Led by Mary Oliver - 6:30-8:00 PM - Virtual

In this Women's Bible Study, we will look at the Bible's description of God's blessings to us and expectations for us as we study what it means to have been called to follow Jesus. Mary prepares the lessons using the book which is based on the television series *The Chosen* by Amanda Jenkins. The study spends most of the evening discussing the Old and New Testament verses in which God reveals His character and plan for us, His chosen. There is always time for catching up with each other's lives and prayer time at the end of the evening.

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

Led by Jim Cleary - 7:00-8:00 PM - Virtual

### **THURSDAYS - ADULTS**

#### **Sonrise Bible Study**

Led by Pastor Donald Black - 7:30-8:30 AM - Virtual

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

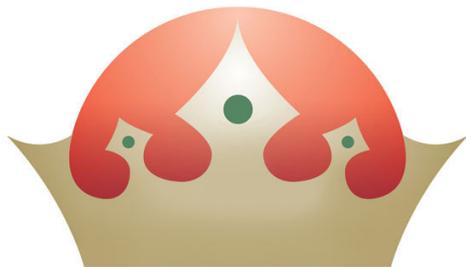
# Greetings from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis!

Baby watch has begun. Stephanie is scheduled to be induced on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Many people have asked us about the choice for induction. I'm not sure I can give a satisfactory answer. The doctor told us that it is current best practice because it is easier on mother and child. The more cynical voices have wondered if it's easier for the doctor. Perhaps. But perhaps that is a factor in the delivery being easier for mother and child. Why not have the doctor and nurses ready and prepared rather than caught off guard? Why not utilize the gift of medical knowledge and technology that God has given to us? But perhaps someone could argue that we're being too naïve. Maybe taking too much initiative and not letting 'nature take its course' will do more harm in the long run. Either way, I think situations such as this highlight the mystery of life and how we can really get stuck in the weeds when we try to sort every part of life out.



**Chuck Ridley,  
Seminary Student**

Permit me to attempt to flesh that thought out a bit. I think just about everyone reading this would agree (either explicitly or implicitly through their actions) that preparation for the expected happenings of life is good and necessary. If you expect to run a marathon, you train for it. If you expect to take a trip, you pack for it. If you expect the birth of a child, you prepare to take care of it. Yes, parents could just 'let it happen' and fly by the seat of their pants when expecting a child, but 'irresponsible' is probably one of the nicest and most civilized adjectives you might apply to such parents in your mind. And yet, we all recognize that tragedies happen to even the most well-prepared parents. There are things in life we have some control over (namely, our own actions) and many things which we cannot control. Even more are the outcomes which we cannot control or even predict.



*He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

COLOSSIANS 1:17, NRSV

All of this is to say that we are true agents of action in this life. We make decisions every day. But I think we are tempted and inclined to put too much stock in our ability to control the bigger picture in which we decide and act. We put too much pressure on ourselves (if we're not shirking our duty) to produce the 'right' outcome of whatever circumstances we find ourselves. As expectant parents, we read many books so that we care for and raise our child 'correctly' while being told by other parents that we will end up throwing all that book knowledge out in the thick of dealing with an unruly child. We lose sight of the truth that the Lord is the one to whom we are to look and on whom

to depend. We would do well to remember the words of Luther's morning and evening prayers: "into Your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine" (cf. Ps. 31:5; Luke 23:46). We do well to remember that we are finite and that in Christ alone do all things hold together (Col. 1:17). When we fail as parents, we commend our children and their well-being into the hands of the perfect Father of us all. This is not an excuse for laziness or abuse, but a humble acknowledgement of our own limits and shortcomings and the boundless riches of God's grace.

On a related note, one of my professors recently commented how he thinks that we do not pray laments enough in the Church. If we were to analyze our prayers, both individual and corporate, we are likely to find that we overwhelmingly tend to pray for physical healing. There is nothing wrong

with this kind of prayer, of course! It is biblical and to be encouraged. However, if I understood him correctly, his thought was that we have lost a sense of the mystery in life and the role that biblical lament should play in response to the tragedies of life. This is supremely applicable as we witness the terrible events going on in Afghanistan right now. It is easy (and good and right) to pray for the people of Afghanistan, that they would be kept safe and delivered from violence; that Christians would escape persecution by the Taliban; that our fellow Americans would get home safely. But it is also easy (though not so appropriate) to pray in anger against our government or the individuals committing violence in Afghanistan. It is easy to ask God to bring wrath upon those with whom we disagree, but this ignores our own sinfulness and our own utter dependence upon God's grace.

Don't misunderstand me. I'm not trying to justify atrocities or advocate for those who commit violence. Rather, as Christians, we are to pray for our enemies (Matt. 5:44), recognizing them as fellow creatures bound in darkness, in need of God's grace to turn them from their evil ways so that they too might live. We are to remember St. Paul's words that our fight is not against other humans, but against the powers that fight the reign and rule of God. This is not a roundabout way of demonizing others, but it recognizes that our brothers and sisters according to the flesh are bound by ideas that set them against our Creator and Redeemer. Having been set free by Christ and knowing that freedom by faith granted by the Holy Spirit, we are called upon to witness to the Lordship of Christ over all things and to pray continuously. And as we await the return of Jesus, when the 'not yet' will become the forever 'now', we lament the pain and suffering that Satan inflicts on our fellow creatures, both those who submit to his tyrannical, though diminishing reign, and those who resist and face violence as a result. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

*"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm."* (Eph. 6:10-13, ESV)

In Christ,  
Chuck Ridley

<sup>1</sup>Robert Kolb, Timothy J. Wengert, and Charles P. Arand, *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2000), 364.

## BOOK DONATIONS NEEDED



**Trinity Stephen Ministers are collecting all kinds of books (especially children's books) to hand out at Trunks 'n' Treats.**

**Check your bookcases, closets, garages and attics for any spare books!**

**Donations may be placed in boxes in foyer.**

### 2021 GOVERNING BOARD

Jim Baccus (Elder)  
Kim Davis (Chair)  
Cindy Deere  
Delvin Dennis (Elder)  
Thomas DeVries  
Pastor Michael Dorn  
Tim Grady (Elder)  
Cassandra McGarvey  
Dan Krueger (Vice-Chair/  
Elder)  
Janet Mueller (Secretary)  
Cynthia Roney

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

# Casa de Oracion - LINC Bible Institute of Houston

On July 25, LINC Bible Institute of Houston celebrated with 16 students from Casa de Oracion's learning community in partnership and located at Trinity Downtown Houston, Texas. The learning community received a certificate of achievement for completion of the Old Testament Capstone Course through the LINC Bible Institute of Houston and in partnership with The Urban Ministry Institute.



The goal of the LINC Bible Institute is to prepare lay leaders in their context to be confident and competent in leading ministry in support of the local ministry. We are so grateful for the devotion and leadership of Pastor Jose Flores and his wonderful wife Celina Flores who tirelessly work to provide the instruction and programming to make this possible for so many. God will surely bless Pastor Jose and Celina's work for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

One student was as young as 15 years old, Jose Ignacio Flores "Nacho" (pictured left), Pastor Jose Flores's son who aspires to be a pastor.

Among the participants of the learning community were two students from Mexico who are leading local ministries in their respective communities and three students who are gathering a group in their home around Bible study and fellowship in Katy, Texas and Northeast Houston in Plum Grove and New Caney, Texas.

In September 2021, the Casa de Oracion learning community will begin their second course, the New Testament Capstone Course.

Currently, they are working on starting new learning communities in the Fall 2021 with other local partnerships in the Houston area.



For urgent prayer requests, please call:  
Lil Hohle - 346.207.7442 or  
Alice Scherer - 713.984.0803

# Thank You, Holy Smokers!

Thank you to all of the Holy Smokers who cooked all night to provide the congregation with delicious brisket and sausage barbecue for our August 22<sup>nd</sup> Fall Kick-off. If you are interested in joining the Holy Smokers ministry, please contact Pastor Michael Dorn at [mdorn@trinitydt.org](mailto:mdorn@trinitydt.org).



# 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

## Life Thoughts for the Church Year - September 5 – Pentecost XV

God's grace shows no partiality (James 2:1). All have sinned, and all have received the mercy of justification for Jesus' sake. Christians cannot encourage abortion because it discriminates against neighbors based on size, skills, or circumstances. We cannot ignore physician-assisted suicide because it discriminates against neighbors based on age, appearance, or ability. Instead, we rejoice to receive every member of our race as sister and brother.



From the Summer 2021 issue of LifeDate, a quarterly journal of news and commentary from Lutherans For Life - [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org).

### STAFF DIRECTORY

713.224.0684

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Michael P. Dorn . . . .713.229.2940

Visitation Pastor  
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Chief Financial Officer  
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Hostess (Mondays - Thursdays)  
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*Joyfully Sharing Christ's Saving  
Love With All People Now!*

Trinity Downtown

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

800 Houston Avenue • Houston, TX 77007

713-224-0684



Article submission deadline is **September 13** for articles to be published October 1, 2021.

Submit articles to [pschroeder@trinitydt.org](mailto:pschroeder@trinitydt.org).

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