



Trinity Today

Vol. 23, No. 11

November 1, 2021

Welcome Back Contemporary Worship on Sunday, November 7th

After three years of offering contemporary worship on Saturday evenings, we are beyond excited to welcome this style of worship back on Sunday mornings. Beginning on Sunday, November 7th at 11:15 a.m., Trinity Downtown will be offering our contemporary worship service in the sanctuary. Led by our praise leader, John Foster, and the fabulous singers and musicians of the praise team, this service is designed to encourage, uplift, and reach deeply into our Houston community.

Worshippers each week will hear a clear and concise gospel message of God's love. This makes our contemporary service a wonderful opportunity to invite seeking and unchurched friends as they find a comfortable entry point to our Trinity Downtown community.



We can't wait to have you join us at 11:15 a.m. in the sanctuary beginning November 7th!

"Oh sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth!

Sing to the Lord, bless His name;
tell of His salvation from day to day.

Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"

November 7th - All Saints' Day

On November 7th, we will celebrate All Saints' Day in the 9:00 a.m. 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 2020.

This year, we will be remembering 21 members who lived and loved in the faith and strength of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



Robert (Skip) Eugene Steuber
02/01/1931 - 11/03/2020



Patricia Rhodes Stone
08/07/1927 - 12/24/2020



Daler Ann Schramm
12/01/1939 - 12/29/2020



Delinda Louise Sterling
12/14/1960 - 01/24/2021



Gina Gutierrez
06/16/1956 - 02/14/2021



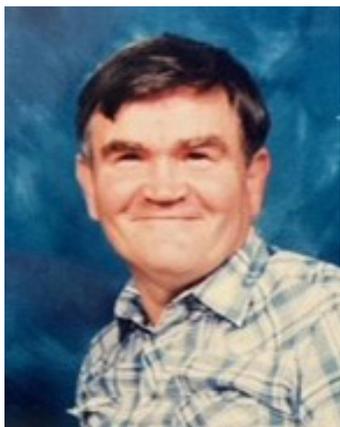
Robert Gene Davis
12/03/1935 - 02/15/2021



Lucille Herzog-Kiser
09/27/1923 - 02/19/2021



Margie Regiene Kunkel
05/12/1930 - 03/10/2021



Raymond Barton
04/05/1937 - 03/31/2021



Michael Lynn Marriott
09/01/1977 - 04/05/2021



Freddie Bennett Sexton
10/11/1928 - 05/15/2021



Richard Krauss
08/01/1963 - 05/17/2021



Raymond James Medack
10/30/1948 - 05/18/2021



James K. Brown
01/30/1930 - 06/25/2021



Velma Ruby Goodgion
12/28/1921 - 08/05/2021



Joan Cora Fischer
09/21/1934 - 08/15/2021



Edwin "Douglas" Kunkel
11/20/1953 - 09/03/2021



Willy C. P. Busch
03/27/1927 - 09/06/2021



Gloria Jean Smith
01/08/1960 - 09/12/2021



William A. "Bill" Darling
12/09/1945 - 09/20/2021



Martha Hollis Gehring
12/30/1921 - 09/21/2021



Congregational Assembly

November 14 at 12:30 pm in the Gym

(Childcare available through Grade 4.)

Agenda

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Opening prayer**
- 3. Approval of minutes from Congregational Assembly held on 11/15/2020**
- 4. Governing Board report**
- 5. Consideration of the proposed 2022 Ministry Financial Plan**
- 6. Vote to approve 2022 Capital Campaign**
- 7. Election of Elders and Governing Board members**
- 8. 2022 Nominating Committee elections**
- 9. Closing Prayer**

**Brisket Lunch with all the fixings
by the Holy Smokers.
Serving begins at Noon.**



**Half Brisket (~5lbs) or Whole Brisket (~10lbs)
\$15.00 a lb.**

**Sales support the Harms/Behnken
Mission Fund.**

**Call the church office no later than Monday,
November 8th, to reserve a brisket.**

Nominees for 2022 Governing Board

The following are the nominees for the 2022 Governing Board. Two elder and two non-elder positions are open.

2022 Governing Board Nominee: Jim Baccus

Age: 72

Years Trinity Member: 36

Occupation: Renewable technologies, supply sourcing, processing, and marketing

Summarize your prior or present involvement in the church:

Former Chairman, current Elder and Governing Board member, HR Mat, ProPresenter team, Holy Smokers BBQ team.

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

Senior Pastor selection committee, policy governance transition team

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

Like any present day church, Trinity Downtown is dealing with issues related to Christian worship, missions, and evangelism. Our goal as a congregation, and as congregant members, is to stay in the Word everyday, pray, listen to the Holy Spirit, tell others about Jesus, and seek God's will. If we ask anything in His name He will provide it. That is a promise. God provides us His spiritual fruit to use for His glory. God communicates with us through His Word, prayer, relationships, and circumstances. Connecting with God is not about being good but about being obedient.



2022 Governing Board Nominee: Mike Gilmore

Age: 36

Years Trinity Member: 6

Occupation: Petroleum Landman

Summarize your prior or present involvement in the church:

I have grown up in the Lutheran Church and regularly attend our traditional service on Sunday mornings. I also attend, and have greatly enjoyed, our weekly small group Bible study. Growing up, I was always very active in my church's youth group and have attended and served as a young adult volunteer at our LCMS state and national youth gatherings. I recently have begun serving as a lay reader at our worship service on Sundays. Both of our children have attended pre-school at Trinity since they were just a few months old, and we are so thankful for our experience; beginning with Trinity School, transitioning to Upbring and now with LEAH. We have been blessed with wonderful teachers and are grateful for the quality of our Christian early childhood education. As our oldest son began Kindergarten this year, and life for us all has slowly started to feel more normal, I have felt called to take on a more active role within our congregation. I would be both excited and humbled to serve, to the absolute best of my abilities as a member of the Governing Board, if given the opportunity.



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

With a career in the oil and gas industry, I have had the experience of working within small, medium

and large exploration and production companies, as well as an independent land broker. I have helped manage teams of field contractors, navigated the acquisitions and divestiture process and performed the in-house daily land and legal functions to maintain an active drilling program for E&P companies operating across Texas, New Mexico and Louisiana. Most recently I had the opportunity to help guide a small (20 employees) independent company through the sales process when we were acquired in 2019. I helped our due diligence team run detailed asset inventories to ensure the deal closed timely and in a manner beneficial to all parties involved.

Aside from professional experience, I also would lean heavily on my experience as a stay-at-home dad to our two young boys when fulfilling the responsibilities of my role. The daily grind of parenthood has transformed my understanding of patience and redefined my perception of God's love. A church is a wonderful collection of individual families congregating together as a large family in Christ; worshipping our Heavenly Father. I believe the perspective of a young parent would be an asset to the board.

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

Nothing brings me greater joy and pride than my family. I have been blessed with a remarkable wife, Katherine, and two wonderful sons, Lincoln (5) and Grayson (3). As our world has drastically changed over the last couple of years, I have been privileged with the opportunity to stay home with our two kids and have relished every moment of it. I know it is time I will never get back with them at this age and take time daily to reflect on the wonderful gifts with which God has blessed me. My wife and I met through our church, Grace Lutheran in Midland, TX when we were seven years old. My Grandfather was our pastor and my role model, with a career in the LCMS ministry spanning over 50 years and dozens of congregations across Texas. Our shared faith and Lutheran background has been instrumental in our marriage and I cannot express how happy we are to have found a home at Trinity.

When not managing the chaos on the home front, I love to cook and create whatever I can think up in the kitchen, hoping to broaden the family's culinary palates. I also love history, reading and traveling. Our most recent vacation abroad took us to Germany in 2017, where we experienced Oktoberfest in Munich and visited Wittenberg for the 500 year anniversary of the Reformation.



2022 Governing Board Nominee: Ross Krueger

Age: 28

Years Trinity Member: 4

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, as a lay reader, and as a Ministry Partner with Kingdom Quest (Sunday School teacher) for 1st Grade. 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, Trunks 'n' Treats, 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 as well as co-leading the 1st grade group. 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 in 2020 Ross helped provide music for worship services and he continues to serve in the choir. 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 went 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 continue to find the best ways to worship, grow and live in difficult 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!



2022 Governing Board Nominee: Marie Munier

Age: 69

Years Trinity Member: 6

Occupation: Attorney

Summarize your prior or present involvement in the church:

After joining Trinity, I volunteered to help with various functions by cooking or helping in similar behind the scenes activities. I help in the assembly of the baptismal banners and participate as a group leader/assistant in our Alpha program. I regularly attend Jim Cleary's Bible studies on Sunday morning. Previously I attended Pastor Leeland's class as well as Paul Dorn's class. I was fortunate to be able to travel with Trinity's group to Israel.



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

I worked for 30 years as an Assistant District Attorney. I was promoted over the years and eventually was put in a position of authority in that organization. I learned managerial skills as Chief of the Trial Bureau and also Chief of the Professional Development Bureau. At the present time I have a private law practice in the Houston Heights.

During my time as an Assistant District Attorney I spoke at many seminars and training events. I presented on various topics ranging from the penal code to sexual assault and DNA lab issues.

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

I was raised in the Methodist church.

I was born and raised in San Antonio.

I graduated with a B.S. in Political Science from the University of Texas at Austin and graduated with a J.D. from the University of Houston Law School. I was a member of Phi Alpha Delta Law fraternity and served as it's president my senior year.



2022 Governing Board Nominee: Hans "Chris" Sonneborn

Age: 50

Years Trinity Member: 11

Occupation: Engineer

Summarize your prior or present involvement in the church:

My wife and I currently teach Bible Studies for our 1st and 2nd grade classes and have volunteered to assist Haley Davisson with various youth engagements since she joined the church. I have two daughters that are in the Foundations 5/6 level Bible study classes. In addition, I serve as a lay reader for the church any time the opportunity arises.



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

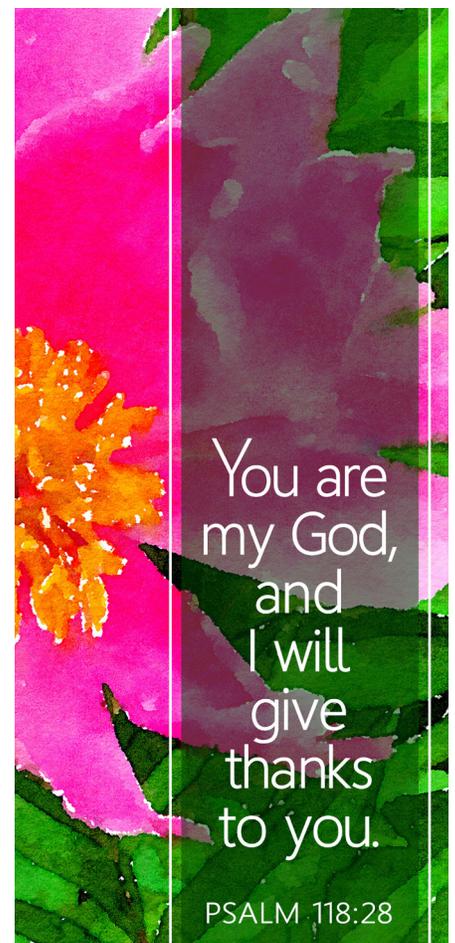
My "day job" involves managing a technical team serving a broad array of customers, managing priorities and budgets at department and organizational levels. I have also worked as a project manager with oversight of several major engineering and construction projects.

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

I have been a member of the Missouri Synod Lutheran church since I was confirmed at St. Paul's in Fort Worth in 1984, where my parents were members and brought myself and my sister for church as children.

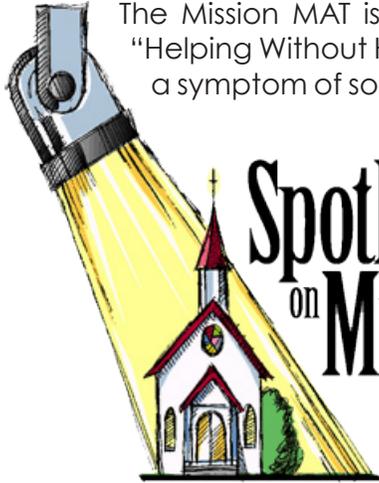
Information Meeting - November 7th

This year in preparation for the Congregational Assembly, the Governing Board will be hosting an informational meeting on Sunday, November 7th in Room 124 from 12:30-1:30. The purpose for this meeting is to provide our members with an opportunity to ask questions, especially about the budget, ahead of the annual meeting. There's no formal agenda or decisions that will be made at this meeting. Rather, it's a chance for you to gain insight into the plans for ministry at Trinity Downtown in 2022.



The Dynamics of Ministry for Poverty in a Broken World

From the book, "Helping without Hurting in Church Benevolence" by Steve Corbett and Brian Finkert, Section II



The Mission MAT is currently re-orienting itself to the concepts found in the book entitled, "Helping Without Hurting". In our previous article, we discussed how material poverty is simply a symptom of something deeper: a breakdown in the relationship with God, self, others and creation. In reality, all are spiritually poor and in need of the fullness of life that God intended: a deep communion with a loving God, dignity, and a positive, giving relationship with others. In recognition of our brokenness and our need for redemption, the authors distinguish those seeking to help from those in need as the materially non-poor vs. the materially poor.

The worldly definition of poverty places the materially non-poor in a position of superiority over the materially poor. The materially non-poor may unintentionally exhibit their brokenness with a tendency to "play god" and "fix" the materially poor. The materially poor often exhibit their brokenness with a paralyzing sense of shame and inferiority, social isolation, and less than ideal work

opportunities and habits. The actions of the materially non-poor may intensify what the materially poor are feeling: "Other people need to do it for me." The remedy for this unhealthy dynamic requires the materially non-poor to repent of our trust in material resources and of our sense of superiority. We can then move into a mutually transformative relationship that brings Christ's healing to the ongoing brokenness in both of our lives.

The author distinguishes material relief from rehabilitation and development. North American churches mistakenly use only a relief approach when the situation calls for development. Relief is the temporary provision of emergency aid (think of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10). Rehabilitation seeks to restore people to a pre-crisis condition. Development moves all closer to being in a right relationship with God, self, others and His creation and ministry. Development is not done to people or for people but with people. Relief and rehabilitation are not long-term solutions to developmental problems.

What are some of the guiding principles that Trinity Downtown can adopt and embrace when responding to requests for benevolence?

- We encourage participation from those seeking benevolence.
- We move from immediate and temporary relief to development in right relationships.
- Our goal is to restore people to being what God created us all to be, people who glorify God by living in right relationship with God, with self, with others, and with the rest of creation.
- We move from "fix the materially poor" to how we can walk together, asking God to fix both of us.
- We acknowledge that none of the foundational relationships can experience fundamental and lasting change without a person becoming a new creature in Christ Jesus.
- We accept that the gospel is to be communicated in word and deed, and that the local church, as an institution, has a key role to play in poverty alleviation.

If you would like to help us build a path to more effective Missions, please join us at our next Zoom meeting on Sunday, November 7th, at 2 p.m. Please contact Pastor Dorn (mdorn@trinitydt.org) to obtain the Zoom credentials.

Hey, Trinity!

Thank you so much for all your support! We have had a great month with lots of exciting things! Our youth had a blast serving at Oktoberfest, though I think their favorite part was dunking me! Thanks to your generosity we are \$2,000.00 closer to our \$25,000 goal for National Youth Gathering! They also had a blast serving our young families and wider community at Trunks 'n' Treats! What an amazing night!



November is an exciting time for us! We will have a Children's Ministry Event and a Youth Ministry Event which will promote fun, fellowship and community building! Sunday School has been going really well! Our high school students are running the drama piece of our 1st-4th grade curriculum and loving it! Lastly, every Sunday in November, we will run the Annual Stock Exchange to support the youth summer trip to the National Youth Gathering, so keep an eye out for our table! Thank you for your support!

Blessings,
Haley Davisson, Dir. of Youth & Children's Ministries

**THANKSGIVING DAY
WORSHIP**

November 25, 2021
9:00 a.m.

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart!

**Daylight
Saving Time
Ends
November 7th
at 2 a.m.**

**Set
Your
Clocks
Back!**

A cartoon clock with a yellow face, a smiling mouth, and eyes. The hands are blue and red. The clock is set to 10:10.

Finance Corner - November 1, 2021

Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth... Deuteronomy 8:17-18a ESV

Dear Supporter of Trinity's Ministry:

Due to our congregation's faithful giving and ongoing commitment to follow Jesus, Trinity Downtown continues to share the Good News to our community and strengthen the faith of the children and adults in our congregation. Through September 30, 2021, tithes, offerings and other revenues were 1.5% lower than our budget, and 4% lower than the same period in 2020. Our expenses were 1% higher than budgeted, and 4% higher than during the same period in 2020, primarily due to the resumption of in-person activities in 2021. You'll recall that we paid off our operational debt earlier in 2021 and smoothly transitioned our strategic partnership providing the early childhood ministry from Upbring to LEAH in early summer.



As with almost all churches, we plan on a significant increase in offerings during the last few months of the calendar year. Let's continue our pattern of generosity so we can finish 2021 financially strong!

Our weekly attendance in September averaged 386, with online attendees comprising 54% of our worship attendance. The resumption of in-person Sunday School had a big impact on our Bible study attendance; in September we had an average of 203 participants each Sunday!

You'll soon be receiving a 2022 Commitment Card in the mail that will give you the opportunity to decide ahead of time how you'll spend the monetary resources the Lord will give you in 2022. Please consider how you can follow Jesus' advice and live a life of intentional generosity. God's people have been doing this for thousands of years, and Scripture is filled with accounts of how God blesses individuals and families who offer to Him the first and best of what they receive. I encourage you to take a step of faith, trusting in the provision and promises of the Lord, so that you might "excel in the grace of giving." (2 Corinthians 8:7).

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. You can bring the Card to church with you on November 21st, mail it back to the church office, or give your pledge online by pointing your internet browser [here](#).

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

Joining Jesus alongside you,
Ron Lacy, CFO

BOARD OF ELDERS - CONTACT INFORMATION

Jim Baccus	jimbaccus@comcast.net	713.956.1899
Delvin Dennis	ddennis@entouch.net	281.415.8787
Tim Grady	timlgrady@aol.com	281.639.0036
Dan Krueger	dwkrueger5@yahoo.com	901.258.4029

COVID's Lasting Impact on Children

I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. John 16:33 ESV

As the latest wave of the coronavirus is waning, researchers can determine the impact of the pandemic on families and children. It is evident that the COVID pandemic has left a real mark on many families. For instance, the Kaiser Family Foundation reports that:



- About four in ten parents of children ages 5 and over say at least one of their children fell behind academically (39%). More than a third (36%) of parents say their child fell behind in their social and emotional development and about three in ten (29%) say their child experienced mental health or behavioral problems due to the pandemic; and
- 27% of parents report their children are having difficulty concentrating on schoolwork, having problems with nervousness or being easily scared or worried (19%), trouble sleeping (18%), exhibit poor appetite or overeating (15%), and complain of frequent headaches or stomachaches (11%).

COVID's impact is not limited to our children; the same research finds that in families:

- Nearly four in ten parents say they or another adult in their household left a job or changed work schedules to care for their children in the past year; and
- A majority (54%) of parents say the pandemic has had a negative impact on their mental health, compared to 39% of adults overall who say the same.

Perhaps you or a loved one are struggling with the after-effects of COVID, an ongoing 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, the Stephen Ministry wants to come alongside you!

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.

Following their commissioning, Stephen Ministers also commit to a continuing education program aimed at sharpening their caregiving skills. Trinity Downtown's Stephen Ministers meet twice a month to study a variety of relevant topics.

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.



For urgent prayer requests, please call:
Lil Hohle - 346.207.7442

Advent Series & Video Devotionals

Trinity Downtown is located in the center of the most diverse city in the United States. For example, Houstonians speak over 145 different languages and more than 1/3 of our residents over the age of 5 speak a language other than English at home. The diversity in these culture groups extends even into how they prepare for and celebrate Christmas.

This year our Advent theme is "Christmas Around the World." Our pastors will be looking at the many different ways people celebrate Christmas. Every day during Advent the focus will be on a different country. On Sundays, you'll be able to join us for live or on demand worship and hear about some of the many ways people prepare for and celebrate Christmas. During the week, a devotional video will premier every day leading up to Christmas featuring one of our pastors touching on a passage of Scripture and what Christmas is in another country.

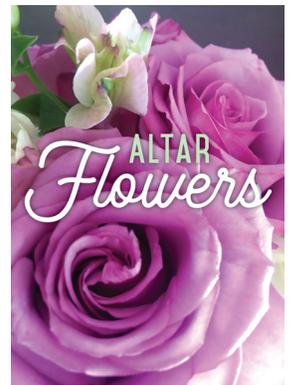


Though the preparations and celebrations of Christmas may differ from place to place and people to people, the reason for the celebration remains the same...it's Jesus' birthday and we celebrate God's Son who came to save us.

Altar Flowers

We all enjoy having beautiful flower arrangements at the altar each Sunday. And now we have the artistic talents of one of our members, Sue Clark, to make these arrangements. She volunteers her time and talent to put these arrangements together and she is able to get the flowers wholesale. All we need now is for some of you to donate to the flower fund so there is money to pay for the arrangements.

Two beautiful bouquets for a Sunday will cost a total of \$75. That is less than half what you would pay at a commercial florist. You are welcome to dedicate your arrangements in honor or in memory of someone special. Please sign up at the flower chart at the Welcome Desk. You may pay for the flowers or just donate to the flower fund with a check (either mailed or put in the offering plate with "flower fund" in the memo line). Or, you may go online to the Trinitydt.org website and designate you are giving to the flower fund. Questions? Contact Pam Schroeder at pschroeder@trinitydt.org.



Fall Food Drive Sunday, November 7

**Non-perishable food, baby items
and monetary gifts are requested.**

**Donations support the Food Pantry at
St. Joseph's Catholic Church.**

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. 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 (5th-6th grades) - Room 207

Confirmation (7th-8th grades) - Room 208 - Hybrid

High School (9th-12th 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.

Exodus

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

The book of Exodus will lead us through the pivotal event in the history of God's dealings with His people. The deliverance from Egypt and the covenant God made with Israel is the event which the prophets held in the memory of the people as they called them to repentance and faith in God, their Savior. The Old Testament exodus points us to the New Testament exodus, the deliverance, which God won for us through His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89192043843>

Faith Discovery

Led by Pastor Michael Dorn - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 123 - In Person

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.

Beauty in the Eye of God

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

Consider the philosophical, religious and social implications of choosing the line where absolute truth ends and subjectivity begins. Perhaps there is more of God that is true in our world than millennia of Western thought would have us believe.

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

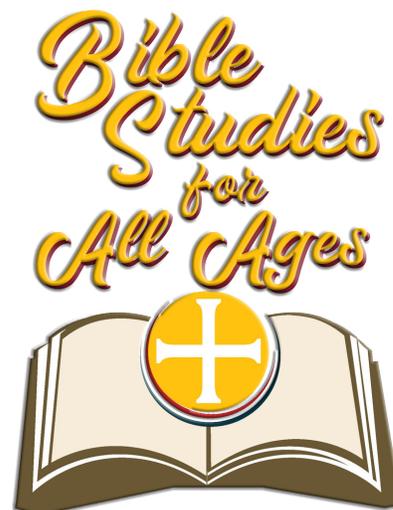
Led by Bill Fischer - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 201 - Hybrid

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 Word Became Flesh: John

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

Join us as we look through the Beloved's gospel, describing what an intimate relationship with Jesus looks like. This will be a fast-paced, discussion-oriented class, with lots of opportunities for questions. The class is geared to all, from new believer to seasoned disciple.

TUESDAYS - ADULTS

Your Strong Suit: Women's Bible Study on God's Armor (Women's Study)

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

This 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. (Class will not meet November 23.)

Joining Jesus on His Mission - Virtual Bible Study for Young Adults

Led by Maddie Meier - 7:15 PM on every other Tuesday - Virtual

Young adults are encouraged to join this virtual study using the book and videos for *Joining Jesus on His Mission*. Written and produced by Trinity's deployed missionary, Pastor Greg Finke, *Joining Jesus on His Mission* is a simple, powerful, and practical book that will move you and your tribe from merely thinking about being everyday missionaries to launching. You will feel both relief and hope as you gain insights into how to recognize where Jesus is already at work in your everyday world and join Him. Books are available in the church office and can be obtained by emailing Matt Meier at mmeier@trinitydt.org.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/92015984452?pwd=ZUh4dnNTT3lzdVnQNTVmQWcwNDBKdz09> Meeting ID: 920 1598 4452, Passcode: zGND4G

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 Mighty & The Mysterious: A Study of Colossians (Women's Study)

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

New Christians in 1st-century Colossae were not all that different from Christians today. They, too, struggled to understand who Jesus is, how Jesus alone reconciles us to God, and why things aren't perfect in the Church.

In St. Paul's letter to these Christians he had never met, he doesn't say they should stop asking hard questions. He doesn't tell them to stop searching God's Word, to stop seeking spiritual wisdom, or to stop striving for unity within the Church. Instead, Paul focuses on their questions and struggles on the Gospel of the mighty and mysterious God: the same God who created the universe revealed Himself among us and reclaimed us as His own through His Son, Jesus.

Walk with author Heidi Goehmann through God's Word to the Colossians. Though many things will remain a mystery until we see our Savior, this six-session Bible study will help readers discover that God fills them right now in every way, through the mighty and mysterious Body of Christ, the Church.

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.

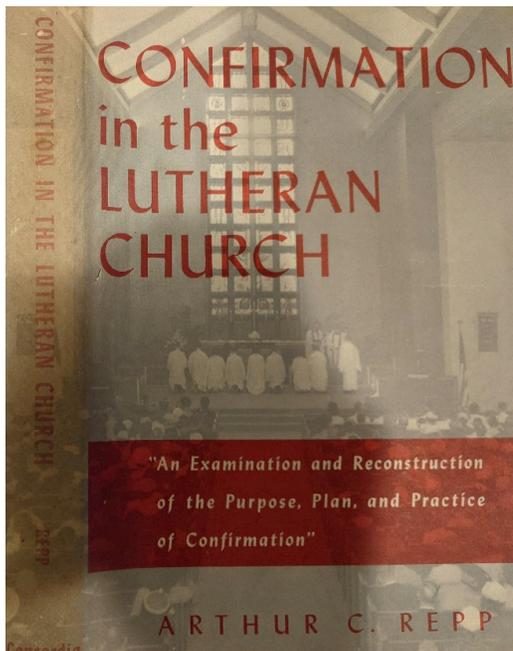
Greetings from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis!

The Fall semester is now half over, which means that some classes have already concluded, and new classes are beginning. Yes, some of our classes are only “half-semester” classes, or seven weeks long. It's not ideal, but I completed a course on the Gospel of John in seven weeks and I have a seven-week course on the Psalms ahead of me. I am always impressed with the faculty of our exegetical (reading and interpreting Scripture) department here at the seminary, but the limitations of time consistently make our exegetical classes feel a bit like a sampler platter. We get a good flavor of the best parts of whatever portion of Scripture we're studying, but there are always large entrees left to savor in future study. As much as I'd like to be able to spend more time with each of our exegetical classes, I suppose this situation is a realistic expression of the Christian life in which we never exhaust the depth of God's Word. Even for preachers and teachers of Scripture, there will always be more to come back to and to savor, to be able to enjoy and share with others.



**Chuck Ridley,
Seminary Student**

Not all my classes are changing, however. I will continue with classes on preaching, German (more on this momentarily), and Confirmation. The Confirmation class is looking at the history, development, and possible future of catechesis and the Rite of Confirmation in the Lutheran Church. It is fascinating to investigate the rather obscure beginnings in the early Church of 'Confirmation' as a part of the rite of Baptism and how it slowly broke away as a separate rite as the Church grew and responsibilities of bishops and local priests/pastors were distinguished in different regions and over different periods of time. Without going into too much detail, it turns out that the Church (at least in the West – that is, excluding the Eastern Orthodox groups) has long struggled to figure out what exactly Confirmation is supposed to be.



I read a few portions of this book for my Cambridge studies, and it came up in my Confirmation class. You might recognize the image on the cover. I'd love to hear from anyone who knows more about this photo and how it ended up on the cover of this book.

Through the Reformation, Luther was not particularly fond of it, at least in the form that it had taken in the medieval Church. After the Reformation, when and where Confirmation was practiced among the Lutheran Churches, it was typically focused on catechetical instruction. Throughout the next few centuries, Confirmation morphed under various influences, most notably Pietism and Rationalism, and its form became a mixed bag of theological positions so to speak in various regions and congregations. Recognizing the problem with Confirmation, the Synod (LCMS) attempted to get a grasp on it in the middle of the 20th century. Concordia Publishing House (CPH) published a book by Dr. Arthur Repp that represented significant research on the history and practice of Confirmation with an eye to the future. The Synod also collaborated with some other Lutheran bodies in America to form the Joint Commission on The Theology and Practice of Confirmation, which developed a study and presented recommendations for how to understand and practice this long revered, but somewhat vague rite which was never considered to be a sacrament by Lutherans. Apparently, due to controversies that surfaced during this time (1960's and 70's), this report and its recommendations were largely overlooked. So, although it is about fifty years old and some might say that it is outdated, there is solid theological work in the report and wisdom that is helpful as we (the Church) consider how to faithfully practice

Confirmation within the wider scope of Christian formation and discipleship. That's not to say that this report and Dr. Repp's books are where we've stopped in our study. Far from it! But perhaps more on the current state and prospects of Confirmation will come in a later update.

For now, I thought I would clarify that I am taking a course on German for advanced studies. This is not part of the normal MDiv studies but is meant to prepare students for the qualifier exam for the STM degree (Master of Sacred Theology). This is an 'academic' degree which complements in some ways the 'practical' or 'professional' degree that is the Master of Divinity. Now, I am still slated to take a call this Spring. I'm taking advantage of the 'reduced residency' option that the seminary has for this degree which allows me to do most of the course work as a 'distance' student and come to campus a couple of times per year for intensive sessions to complete the courses I will be working on in the Fall and Spring semesters. One professor likened it to continuing education, which is how I've taken to thinking about it. For those wondering – no, I had not been planning on pursuing advanced studies. However, after my experience in Cambridge, I started asking questions, and before I knew it, I had walked into this situation. It helps that I will be able to 'upgrade' six credits next semester toward this degree, which is a quarter of the credits required for the STM. Regardless, this will mean more work on top of everything else. Please pray for my dear wife to continue to be patient with me!

Speaking of family, Stephanie and William are doing well. William is almost two months old now, which means he is supposedly past the worst time for colic and two-thirds of the way through the supposed "fourth trimester." If you're not familiar with this term, don't worry. We had not heard of it before reading the book *The Happiest Baby on the Block*. The author, Dr. Harvey Karp, theorizes that babies were meant to remain in the womb three months longer than they do (I'm just repeating this here, not advocating the theory) and so they want womb-like conditions for their first three months of life. Regardless how accurate his theory is, the practical steps he offers for calming infants seem to work – it's as if a switch is flipped when he's screaming and then a sufficient *shush* or a good swaddle will silence and calm him, usually instantaneously! All of that is to say, once we hit the three-month mark, supposedly things get a lot easier in terms of fussing when he's awake and his sleep schedule. We think we already see significant improvements in his sleeping and eating habits, but I keep looking forward to early December. I'm told (and I do believe this) that there will always be some kind of mystery to your children and that you'll consistently have to learn and adapt to some sort of change they are going through. Fair enough. For now, I think it's enough to just get to the next month.

"In the fear of the Lord one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge." (Prov. 14:26, ESV)

In Christ,
Chuck Ridley



Holiday Bazaar

PRESENTED BY
LADIES CIRCLE MINISTRIES

NOVEMBER 14
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
GYM

FALL ITEMS CHRISTMAS ITEMS BAKED GOODS

2021 GOVERNING BOARD

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Elder)
Janet Mueller (Secretary)
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Minutes of the Governing Board are available to our members at the Welcome Center.

Ladies Circle Ministries - November 4

The Ladies Circle will meet at 10 a.m. on Thursday, November 4, in Room 124. Members and guests are invited to come early at 9:30 a.m. for refreshments and fellowship.

Our speaker for the day will be Annette Mullendore from the Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens. Her topic is "The Victorian Lady on the Texas Frontier."

Plans are underway for the Annual Christmas Bazaar & Bake Sale to be held in the Gym on Sunday, November 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Donations of items for the Bazaar may be brought to the meeting on November 4.

New members and guests are always welcome. For more information, please contact Trinity Garrett, president, at tgarrett@trinitydt.org or 713.229.2937.



Toddler Tips from LDA (LEAH Schools Downtown Academy)

Toddlers are so cute! The way they walk when first learning, the way they eat their first ice cream cone, the way they snuggle with parents when they fall asleep...these are some of our precious memories. When children begin to speak, it is also special and wonderful. First comes cooing and squealing with delight. Next come babbling and those first words that you can actually understand. As a toddler's vocabulary begins to take shape, listen for the way your child enunciates words. I know some of their pronunciations are so cute that we don't want them to stop, but the truth of the matter is that if we encourage mispronunciations for too long while the brain is rapidly developing, we can hinder a child's speech and language development, their communication skills can be delayed, and making sense of letters and sounds as they begin pre-reading tasks can be difficult. So, enjoy the cute, but only for a little while before modeling speech correctly. If your child is not talking at all by the age of two and cannot be understood by someone other than parents as they near their third birthday, ask your pediatrician for guidance. Early intervention is key when helping children overcome delays. Many delays can even be overcome with a little work at home and some social interaction in a good preschool.



LDA celebrates our teachers and moms by reminding one another to take care of themselves during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. We love and need our teachers and mommies!

powerful. Curiosity might be my favorite in that it motivates teachers and students to leave no stone unturned and to keep searching for results, answers, and outcomes. One of the teachers said it means to "never settle". It is so awesome to have a team that works together to lead children.

LEAH Downtown teachers met for inservice on October 11 where we worked on developing our new core values. The staff selected faith, honesty, compassion, family, curiosity, and growth. The reasoning behind our choices is really

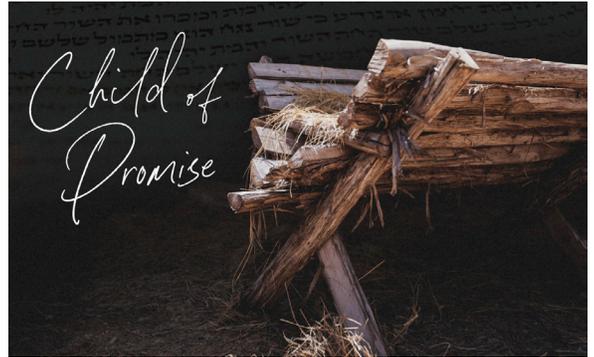


Advent Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries—Child of Promise

The birth of the Savior is celebrated again this year in *Child of Promise*, a joyful look at the miracle of Jesus' birth. From the beginning, foretold in Genesis and proclaimed throughout the Old Testament, God announced the coming Messiah to a wayward world. In Jesus Christ, that promise was fulfilled.

Each year Christians reflect on the hope God offers the world at Christmas. Born unto us—God's Son, our Savior—Jesus is the fulfillment of the Father's promise to send a Redeemer. Announced beforehand by the prophets, in the Christ Child we have the forgiveness of our sins and the hope of life eternal. This God has given to us in His *Child of Promise*.

Daily Devotions from LHM will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others. Printed copies are available or 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](#). Perfect for personal reflection or to share with family, friends and congregations, these seasonal meditations will help prepare you to celebrate the true meaning of Advent.



Parents Night Out



**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2021
6:00PM - 10:00PM**

**LEAH Schools Downtown Academy
1316 Washington Ave., Houston, TX 77002**

Open for children from 6 months to 5th grade.

Reservations required — please reserve your spot at 832.301.3100.

**Join us for
Pizza | Fun | Games | Entertainment**

\$30 per child



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 - November 7 – Pentecost XXIV

We need neither trust in princes nor fear public opinion (Psalm 146:3-4), as all these things operate and end under our Heavenly Father's authority. When we cannot care for a child or keep ourselves alive (1 Kings 17:12), we don't have to surrender to pressures, politics, verdicts, or laws. Instead, we entrust ourselves to Him whose abundance even our afflictions cannot exhaust (1 Kings 17:14-16)—and we invite our neighbors to do the same.

(From the Fall 2021 issue of LifeDate, a quarterly journal of news and commentary from Lutherans For Life - www.lutheransforlife.org.)



For thus says the LORD the God of Israel:

The jar of meal
will not be emptied
and the jug of oil
will not fail ...

1 KINGS 17:14, NRSV

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Article submission deadline is **November 12** for articles to be published December 1, 2021.
Submit articles to pschroeder@trinitydt.org.
Contact Pam Schroeder at 713.229.2944 with any questions about this publication.