



Trinity Today

Vol. 25, No. 1

January 1, 2023

Houston Bronze Ensemble to Play at Epiphany Service

Houston Bronze Ensemble is so happy to be playing once again for the Epiphany Service at Trinity Downtown. HBE is a community handbell organization. Our ringers come from all over the Houston area and beyond, as far away as Hempstead. Our ringers are mostly not professional musicians but people who volunteer their time and talent simply because they have a passion for ringing bells. We are fortunate to have 7 octaves of handbells and 6 octaves of handchimes plus Petit and Fritsen bells and silver melody bells. Our concerts are generally in December and May. We love playing at parties and community events with our smaller group, Celebration Ringers. HBE is available for handbell workshops which are offered at no charge through our Build a Bell Workshop program. You can find more information about the ensemble at www.houstonbronze.com or on our Facebook page.

Thank you to Trinity for all you do to make our organization possible. Without rehearsal space and storage for our rather large instrument, we could not do what we do.



Rev. Dr. James Marriott - Guest Organist

The Rev. Dr. James Marriott will be our guest organist for our 9:00 a.m. service on January 1.

Rev. Dr. James Marriott is the Assistant Professor of Music and Department Coordinator (Chair) of Music at Concordia University Texas.

Holding undergraduate and graduate degrees in Parish Music from Concordia Nebraska and Concordia Wisconsin, respectively, he earned a Ph.D. in Liturgical Studies from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL, with an emphasis in liturgical inculturation. He was also ordained into the pastoral ministry through Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He frequently lectures and performs across the United States, using workshops and hymn festivals as an opportunity to demonstrate the cultural diversity of the church. Jim and his wife, Kristi, have been married for almost twenty years and are blessed with two children, Joel and Kirstin.



Donations for Homeless

Please consider donating cold weather gear to be given upon request on cold days to the homeless population who come to Trinity for a sack lunch. Items should be new or clean, slightly worn items. A majority of those coming for a sack lunch are adult males requiring a large or extra-large size.



Suggested items to donate

include: stocking caps, jackets, gloves, socks (white preferred).

You may place your donated item(s) in the marked receptacle located in the foyer. Thanks in advance for your generosity.



Faith Discovery

Interested in being part of Trinity Downtown?

Join Pastor Dorn for Faith Discovery Class beginning January 22 at 10:15 a.m. in Room 123.

Contact Pastor Dorn for more information at mdorn@trinitydt.org.

“Making Memories” by Pastor Lonnie Gonzales

One key to renewal in the local church is a dynamic cooperative orientation towards outreach. The dynamics are between sharing the Gospel (evangelism) and ministry (social action) at the local level. Our strategic partnership with the Lutheran Education Association of Houston (LEAH) Downtown Academy is one way we can join and experience the dynamics of the Gospel (evangelism) in the context of Christian Education (social action).

Recently, by invitation from Director Kathy Entzenberger to join their Pre-school Christmas Program, we were invited to share a brief invitation for the families of the LEAH Downtown Academy to join us at Trinity Downtown for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day celebrations. We invited them to join us and “make memories”. Making memories as a family can last a lifetime. The invitation was for them to consider making a memory with us.

Making a memory with Trinity Downtown affords us the chance to reinforce our shared commitment to Christian education and values with LEAH



Downtown Academy as we too join in the renewal of families' lives by presenting the Gospel message (evangelism) in light of the incarnation of our Lord at Christmas time in the context of providing a quality education (social action) for their children.

As the Associate Pastor of Outreach, I get the privilege of helping steward our relationship with LEAH Downtown Academy as we partner together in making a difference in our community by sharing in the Gospel proclamation (evangelism) and Christian education (social action). Our hope for the future is that our partnership will be strengthened.

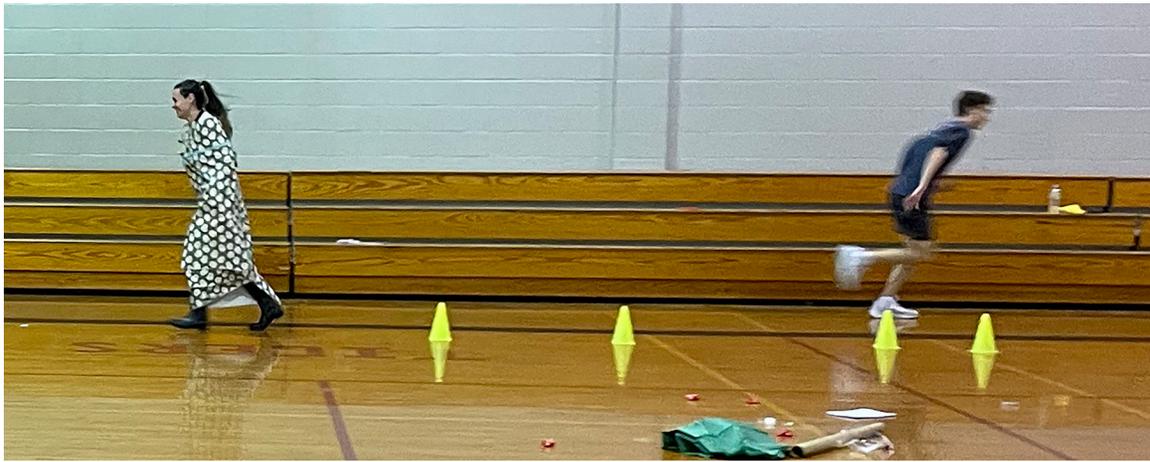
Be Blessed,
Pastor Lonnie

Hey, Trinity Families!

December was a whirlwind but check out some of these awesome photos from our Kids Christmas Party and our Youth Christmas Party!



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KIDS PARTY

January looks forward to a service day and an escape room for our youth group! Our next kids event will be a movie night in February!

I am so excited to announce we have a middle school mission trip for our 7th and 8th graders that will serve the downtown Houston community as well as a high school mission trip that will serve a community in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Our fundraiser for the mission trips will begin January 15th and run through February 5th. You can read all about our shareholder fundraiser on page 6! As always, thank you for your support and encouragement! I am so grateful for all of you!

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



Trinity Youth Ministry Annual Stock Subscription

The youth at Trinity Downtown are pleased to announce a renewed opportunity for you to make an annual investment in their lives, with as little as a \$50 contribution.

Have you ever wondered what \$50 can do for youth ministry at Trinity?

- \$50 can cover an entire day of meals for one student at our middle school mission trip to the downtown community.
- \$50 can cover a tank of gas.
- \$50 can cover lunch with lay leaders who are investing in students during trips/planning meetings.
- \$50 can cover supplies for summer trip preparation and bonding materials.



By investing in the Youth of Trinity Downtown you are investing in shaping and forming faith of students between 5th-12th grade, who are growing in their roles within the body of Christ. Our hope is to take 20 students and 5 chaperones on our high school trip and 15 students and 5 chaperones on our middle school trip. To accomplish that goal, we need to raise \$15,000.

Your investment this year will support all costs associated with the summer mission trips for our 7th-12th grade students, to meet our \$15,000 goal. Any investment beyond that amount will be designated to upcoming youth mission programs and opportunities!

Buy a single share at \$50 and you will receive a signed group photo and thank you note from either the middle or high school mission trip groups after returning home. Buy 2 shares (\$100) and you are invited to join the annual shareholders dinner on July 14, 2023, are added to the quarterly youth ministry updates and get the chance to learn about the students you are investing in. The shareholders dinner is very special, both to our students and return investors! It gives our students a chance to share how God changed their lives during each trip, serve the people who generously supported them and revel in the relationships they built during the summer.

Shareholder benefits are purchased annually and must be used within the year. Stocks may be purchased from January 15 - February 5. The shares you purchase today provide benefits through 8/31/23, and allows for rest during a few months.

Orange Shareholder = invest \$50 (1 share)

- Signed Group Photo
- Thank you note from students

Bronze Shareholder = invest \$100 (2 shares)

- All the perks of being a Bronze shareholder, +
- Shareholder's dinner.
- Youth Ministry Quarterly Updates

Silver Shareholder = invest \$250 (5 shares)

- All the perks of being a Bronze shareholder, +
- Specialized T-shirt.
- Come alongside students during both trips and receive prayer partner updates.

Gold Shareholder = invest \$500 (10 shares)

- All the perks of being a Silver shareholder, +
- Get a Mission Trip journal from either trip and have the opportunity to journal with us during either week.
- Opportunity to pre-submit questions to be asked at the shareholders dinner.

Teal Shareholder = invest \$1000+ (20+ shares)

- All the perks of being a Gold shareholder, +
- 1 mutually agreed upon service project before 8/31/23!
- Personalized thank you note from Haley Davisson and a Trinity Downtown Student.

Your contributions can make a real difference in Trinity Downtown's ministry to our students by helping provide a place and a ministry that can build their faith for a lifetime!

Blood Donor Sunday



Our next Blood Donor Sunday will be held January 8, 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/360016. 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. All successful donors will receive a free hoodie.

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.

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Mike Sterling	nasasterling@gmail.com	713.299.7238

How to Deepen Your Faith in 2023

The “holiday season” is now behind us, and our hearts naturally turn toward thinking about 2023. We start pondering what we want to accomplish in 2023. Perhaps you'd like to lose weight, finish a degree or create some great family memories in the coming year.

It's also appropriate for us to ponder how we can intentionally deepen our relationship with Jesus in the coming year. Of course, only the Holy Spirit can bring about any lasting change in our heart, but we can put ourselves in a position for God to work in our lives by establishing good spiritual habits. Here's one way to do that:



Ask for God's guidance. Pray that He will enlighten your path and create a deeper desire to know Him.

Evaluate where you are now. Honestly evaluate where you feel you are in your spiritual maturity.

Keep it honest. You may have doubts about your faith that you need to discuss with God. Or, you might have set some lofty goals in prior years that you didn't follow-through on. Ask the Lord to help you understand what went wrong.

Keep it real. Goals are useful but setting unrealistic goals can sap your spiritual energy. Don't be afraid to take small steps.

Here are some goals you might consider:

- Establishing a time just to sit with God for a few minutes every day at the same time
- Keeping a prayer journal
- Create a habit of writing down one blessing you are grateful for each day
- Setting specific charitable giving goals

Don't be too hard on yourself; just look at these steps as useful tools that will eventually create a joyful life lived in the presence of God!

Are you feeling sad or anxious, facing financial difficulties or grieving the loss of a loved one? God never intended for us to go through these challenges alone. Reach out to Trinity's Stephen Ministry for assistance. Stephen Ministers are lay people in our congregation trained to provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care to individuals facing difficult times in life—grief, cancer, divorce, financial difficulties, hospitalization, chronic illness, job loss, disability, loneliness, a spiritual crisis, or other life struggles. They have a compassionate heart for those who are hurting, and they have been equipped with caring ministry skills by their congregation's Stephen Leaders. A Stephen Minister typically has one care receiver at a time and meets with that person once a week to listen, care, pray, encourage, and offer emotional and spiritual support.

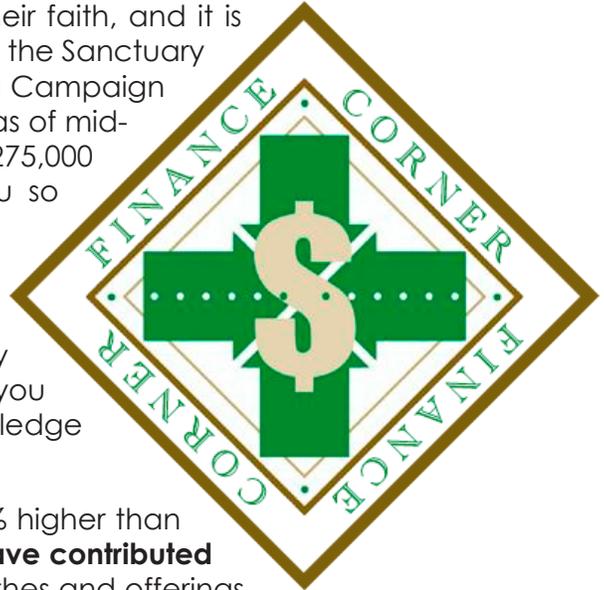
If you'd like to learn more about how our Stephen Ministry could provide a listening ear and caring heart for yourself, a loved one, friend, neighbor or co-worker (inside or outside our congregation) please speak with one of our pastors or reach out to Ron Lacy at rlacy@trinitydt.org or 713.229.2970.

Finance Corner - January 2023

[Paul says] forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:13b-14 ESV

2023 is full of promise for those that "strain forward" in their faith, and it is also full of promise for our congregation. The renovation of the Sanctuary will begin in earnest this month, and our Magnify Capital Campaign will be building on the wonderful foundation laid in 2022; as of mid-December, we have over \$625,000 in pledges, and over \$275,000 in gifts toward our \$750,000 campaign goal. Thank you so much for your generosity!

We haven't yet reached our goal of \$750,000 in pledges, so if you haven't yet had an opportunity to make a pledge to the Magnify Capital Campaign, please prayerfully consider doing so. You may find a commitment card as you enter the Sanctuary, or you may record your Magnify pledge online [here](#).



Tithes and offerings for the month of November were 14% higher than our monthly budget, and **we are grateful for those who have contributed a bit extra to help us catch up.** On a year to date basis, tithes and offerings remain \$96,000 lower than our budget, so if you have not already done so, **please prayerfully consider making a special gift to help us end the year "in the black"**. You can make a real difference in Trinity's ability to impact and reach out to our community, as God works His work among us.

If you have not yet recorded your 2023 Home Treasury pledge for planned giving next year, you can find a commitment card as you enter the Sanctuary, or you may use our online pledge form [here](#).

Here's a quick summary of "visible results" for November:

November 2022 Summary		
Worship Attendance November 2022	In-person	Online
Average Traditional Service Attendance	221	127
Average Contemporary Service Attendance	40	20
Total Average Worship Attendance	261	147
	Adults	Students
Avg Discipleship Hour Attendance	126	61
Contributions	Actual	Budgeted
November 2022 offerings	\$170,973	\$150,000
Year to date 2022 offerings	\$1,498,727	\$1,595,000
Magnify Campaign gifts thru 11/30/2022	\$215,653	\$750,000

Joyfully joining Jesus alongside you,
Ron Lacy
CFO

Magnify Campaign Update

The Magnify campaign was launched in October with a goal of raising \$750,000 by the end of 2023 to fund the renovation of Trinity's Sanctuary. Due to the generosity of our congregation, as of the end of December we have received pledges totaling over \$625,000 and gifts of over \$320,000! That means we've raised over 40% of the funds needed. Praise the Lord! We are grateful to our Trinity family for your generosity and response to this need, but we still need to reach our \$750,000 pledge goal. If you have not yet had an opportunity to participate in the Magnify campaign, please prayerfully consider doing so. Here's how you can [support this project](#).



We are pleased to announce that the City of Houston has approved ALL of our construction permits, and renovations in the rest rooms in the Foyer will begin in January. In February, renovations in the Sanctuary will begin, and worship services will be moved to the gym for the duration of the work, which is scheduled to be completed in late March.

Additional renderings, a model pew, and other sample materials remain available for your review in the Gathering Space. Please stop by and take a look.

We thank those who have already provided their commitment card and encourage others to prayerfully consider participating in our Magnify campaign!

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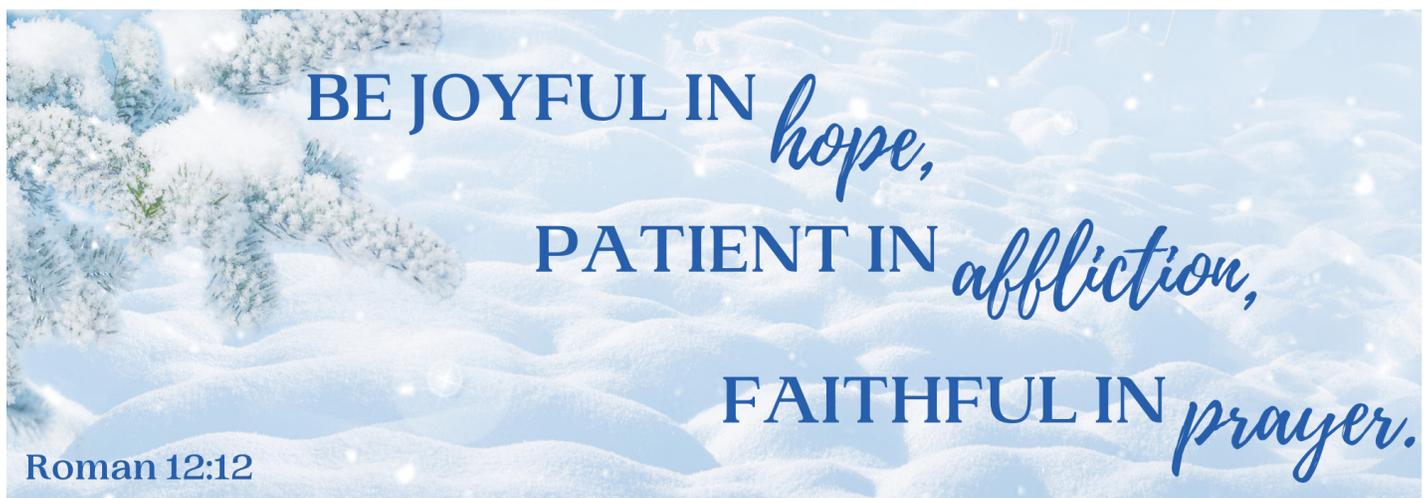
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Magnify Prayer Request/Prayer Warriors

We are SO thankful that God has answered our prayers and the City of Houston has approved all of our construction permits. In January, please join us in thanking the Lord for the approvals. You can also join us in praying for our general contractor, Paradigm Construction, and the many sub-contractors who will be working on the Sanctuary renovation project. We can ask the Lord to give them wisdom, diligence and a safe working environment. And, of course, we should continue to pray that everything be done in a way that MAGNIFIES our Lord.



Prayers Warriors for our Capital Campaign are needed to pray for God's guidance in Trinity's stewardship in completing the refreshing/updating of our Sanctuary. You may pray with other prayer warriors in person on Sundays in the Gathering Space or by Zoom on Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. Please call Rick or Betty Berg at 281.455.5413 or 281.455.5426 for more information.

Un-Decorate the Church



January 8th
12:15 - 2:00 p.m.

Sandwiches
will be served at
11:15 a.m.

Sign up at the
Welcome Desk
if you can help.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Wishing you
peace, love, and joy
throughout 2023.

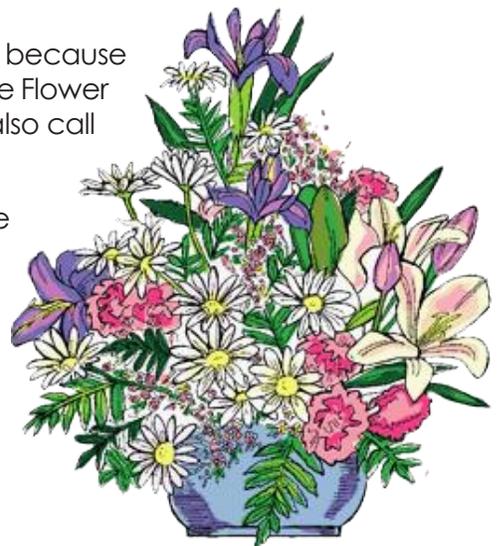


It is Truly a Blessing to See Beautiful Flowers at Our Altar Every Sunday!

If you are wanting to dedicate flowers for a special occasion or just because you love to see the beautiful flowers at the altar, please sign up on the Flower Chart that is hanging in the foyer by the Welcome Desk. You may also call our hostess (713.224.0684) to sign up as well.

You may use your own florist or you can make a donation to the "Flowers for Sanctuary" fund at <https://www.trinitydt.org/online-giving/> or send in a check with the memo "Flowers" for \$75. A florist in our congregation (Sue Clark) will make the arrangements for you with the flowers of your choice or you can elect to have her decide. You may take your flowers with you after the 11:15 a.m. service.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Trinity Garrett at 713.229.2937.



One Service

Sunday Morning
January 1
9:00 a.m.

On January 1 we will have only one morning service. There will not be adult or children's Discipleship Hour on that day.

True Light Spring Music Tour

The Concordia University Texas choral and instrumental ensembles will share the **Light and Love** of Jesus Christ in their True Light Spring Music Tour. We invite you to enjoy a special morning of music with us on Sunday, February 5 during our 9:00 a.m. worship service.



2023 GOVERNING BOARD

Jim Baccus (Elder)
Lori Dixon
Pastor Michael Dorn
Mike Gilmore (Elder)
Tim Grady (Elder)
Ross Krueger
Cassandra McGarvey
Marie Munier
Mary Oliver
Cynthia Roney
Chris Sonneborn (Elder)
Mike Sterling (Elder)

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

Trinity Ladies Circle Ministries

Trinity Ladies Circle Ministries will not meet in January. Mark your calendar for their next meeting on February 3rd. All ladies are invited to attend.

For additional information, please contact Trinity Garrett, president, at (c) 281.300.5660 or tgarrett@trinitydt.org.



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

High School (9th-12th grades) - Underground (basement)

SUNDAYS - ADULT

A Man Who Had Two Sons

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

A Man Who Had Two Sons looks at the familiar parable of the Prodigal Son with a slightly different approach. Each time we reread a familiar passage in the Bible we have an opportunity to learn something we had previously overlooked.

Elijah

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

Every day the news reinforces what you want to forget—we live in an insecure world. Elijah's times were no safer. He faced famine, murder, and corruption—with both courage and fear. In this series on Elijah's life, we will try to discover how to look beyond the insecurity of the world to our sovereign God who reigns forever. Discussion-oriented.

Faith Discovery - New Member Class (Begins January 22)

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

Class for those interested in joining Trinity Downtown.

Jeremiah

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

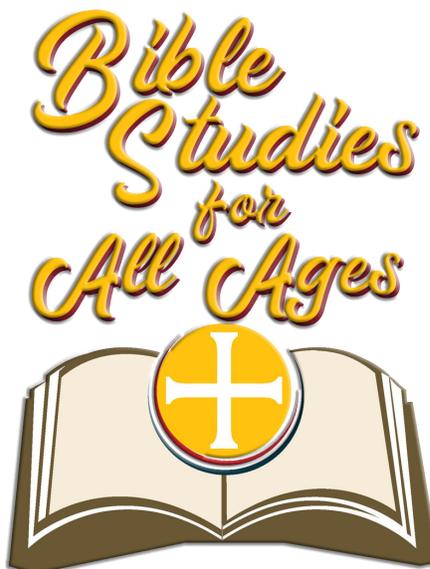
In this study of Jeremiah we will hear a message of sin, judgment, and grace— three forces which were at work in the days of Jeremiah and Israel and which are also at work in our history and society. These forces, which we cannot escape or ignore, shape our lives before God. As we learn God's plan from Jeremiah's message we also learn from the life and character of Jeremiah. He faced false prophets, priests, and kings courageously and yet agonized over his doubts, fears, griefs, and bitterness. However, through it all, he rose as conqueror by the grace and power of the Lord, his Strength and his Fortress.

Joining Jesus on His Mission

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

Participants are encouraged to join this 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.

This is a Spanish-speaking Bible study opportunity.



Liturgical Arts

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

Ever notice that many churches are designed as a cross? Ever wonder where the liturgy came from? The Christian church over many centuries has built a beautiful mosaic of traditions and meanings behind what makes a church unique from anything else in the secular world. We'll go through the history, the why, and the meaning behind what we experience every Sunday.

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.

TUESDAYS - ADULTS

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study - LifeLight: Acts, Part I (Resumes January 17)

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

This study is part of the *LifeLight* Bible study series of in-depth studies of Bible books. The goal of LifeLight is that through a regular program of in-depth personal and group study of Scripture, more and more Christian adults may grow in their personal faith in Jesus Christ.

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.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/92015984452?pwd=ZUh4dnNTT3lzdVNQNTVmQWcwNDBKdz09> Meeting ID: 920 1598 4452, Passcode: zGND4G

WEDNESDAYS - ADULTS

The Book of Romans

Led by Mary Oliver - 6:30-7:45 PM - Virtual

Virtual Midweek Spiritual Check-in

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

THURSDAYS - ADULTS

Sonrise Bible Study

Led by individual class members - 7:30-8:30 AM - Virtual

This member-led virtual class primarily discusses the Scripture readings assigned for the following Sunday. The class is open to men and women. We plan to follow this member-led format while Pastor Black is recovering from his recent illness. For more information contact Bill Fischer at 832.459.3241 or the church office.



Explore God's Word With Us!

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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!

Life Thoughts January 1 – Christmas I/Circumcision and Name of Jesus

Our Lord became incarnate to give all humankind the privileges of His name (Numbers 6:27). He means to make the littlest of us into His sons and daughters (Galatians 3:26). The designation of baby Jesus as divine Child demonstrates the Father's delight in declaring infants (Psalm 8:2), eight-day-olds, and even unborn ones (Luke 2:21) as infinitely precious. Receiving them as gifts celebrates Him as God!

From *Life Date - Winter 2023*, A quarterly journal of news and commentary from Lutherans For Life. (www.lutheransforlife.org)



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

Trinity Downtown

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Article submission deadline is **January 13** for articles to be published February 1, 2023.

Submit articles to pschroeder@trinitydt.org.

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