

# Trinity Today

Vol. 25, No. 3

March 1, 2023

## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE



### **PALM SUNDAY - APRIL 2**

**9:00 AM - Traditional Worship (HC)**

**11:30 AM - Confirmation (HC)**



### **MAUNDY THURSDAY - APRIL 6**

**Noon - Traditional Worship (HC)**

**6:30 PM - Seder Dinner (HC)**



### **GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 7**

**Noon - Traditional Worship**

**6:30 PM - Tenebrae Worship**



### **EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 9**

**9:00 AM - Festival Worship (HC)**

**11:00 AM - Festival Worship (HC)**

# Christian Seder Meal - April 6

*"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." James 1:17*

The greatest gift given to us is the eternal life we have through Jesus by His death and resurrection. Before He sacrificed Himself for us, Jesus gave us a holy meal through which we receive His grace and forgiveness. Just as the Father graciously spared the Hebrews from death during the Passover, He not only spares us Christians but reconciles us to Him through the blood of the Holy Lamb – Jesus.

On Maundy Thursday, April 6 at 6:30 p.m., Trinity Downtown will celebrate a traditional Christian Seder meal with Holy Communion. This very special evening will also be the first time the First Communion Class participates in the Lord's Supper with our Trinity family.

**Tickets are now available in the Gathering Space.** Please get your ticket early as seating is limited. Tickets to the Seder are free, but receiving your tickets will secure your seats for the evening.

A freewill offering will be gathered at the Seder for the dinner prepared by Treebeards. The menu includes Chicken Fried Chicken with Cream Gravy (a limited amount of Boneless Breast of Chicken with Fresh Basil Vinaigrette will also be available), Mashed Potatoes, Fresh Green Beans with Vinaigrette, French Bread and Butter and Butter Cake.

Childcare will be available for children 6 weeks - age 3. Please RSVP for childcare when you pick up your tickets. The children will be served chicken nuggets or you may bring their dinner.

Please join our Trinity Downtown community as we gather around His Table and give thanks for the good gift that Jesus has given us in His Body and Blood.



## Easter Lily Orders

Beautiful Easter lilies will adorn our sanctuary for Easter. If you would like to purchase one or more for \$12.50 each, please order in one of the following ways:

- Complete the form [online](#) and submit your payment by mailing a check earmarked for Easter lilies to the church office or submit payment [online](#).
- Write your dedication(s) on the Easter lily order form available at the table near the entrance of the gym. Insert your check and form in the envelope provided and place in the Easter lily box.



Lilies may be taken home after the 11:00 a.m. Easter service. Deadline to order and have dedication in the online Easter Service Folder and in the pre-service loop is Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.



# Leaving the Lies

Lies have always been among Satan's best and most effective tools. Don't be surprised. Lies have always been Satan's stock in trade. Satan lied to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and people have bought into his lies ever since. That's why Jesus calls him, 'the father of lies' (John 8:44). After Jesus resisted the devil's lies during His temptation, Satan left Him for a time. But the devil came back — at a more convenient time, such as during Jesus' passion. We see the Father of Lies in action as he twists Pilate, priests and people to believe his vicious untruths.



Our Lenten Series this year for Sunday Worship and our Video Devotions focuses on some of Satan's more popular lies. The goal of this series is to help us be ever vigilant to these lies, to focus on God's truths, and the simple things we can do — leaving the lies behind. Most importantly, to expose Satan's lies and point to the cross as the earthly symbol of God's love.

Each day during Lent with the exception of Sundays, a reminder link will be emailed to you with the video devotional for that day. You'll be able to watch past devotionals on Trinity's Youtube channel (Trinity Downtown HTX).

## 2023 GOVERNING BOARD

**Jim Baccus** (Elder)

**Lori Dixon**

**Pastor Michael Dorn**

**Mike Gilmore** (Elder)

**Tim Grady** (Chair/Elder)

**Ross Krueger**

**Cassandra McGarvey**  
(Vice chair)

**Marie Munier**

**Mary Oliver**

**Cynthia Roney**

**Chris Sonneborn** (Elder/  
Secretary)

**Mike Sterling** (Elder)

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

# Blood Donor Sunday



Our next Blood Donor Sunday will be held March 12, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Room 125. If you would prefer a special time, please sign up online at <https://www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive-schedule/365020>. 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 general admission ticket to Big Rivers Waterpark & Adventures, an eGift Card of their choice through Tango, and a voucher for a FREE short stack of pancakes!

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.

# Finance Corner - February 2023

*I will praise the name of God with a song; I will **magnify** Him with thanksgiving. Psalm 69:30 ESV*

The renovation of our Sanctuary began last month so that Trinity Downtown can continue to **magnify** the Lord for another 140+ years! So far, the old flooring has been removed, our vintage pews were taken to their new home(s), and new lights are being installed that will make our livestream much brighter. The Gym has become our worship center for the remainder of March.

**All this activity was the direct result of the generosity of our congregation;** through January 31, 2023 our Magnify Capital Campaign recorded over \$720k in pledges, coming very close to our \$750k campaign goal, and received over \$356k in gifts.

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 Gym, or you may record your Magnify pledge online [here](#).

Tithes and offerings for the month of January were 3% lower than our monthly budget, and our expenses were also a bit lower than budgeted. Average worship attendance in January was 411, which is 67 more than January 2022.

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

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



## January 2023 Summary

Average Worship Attendance	In-person	Online
Traditional Service	194	129
Contemporary Service	57	31
Total Average Worship Attendance	251	160
	Adults	Students
Avg Discipleship Hour Attendance	128	64
Contributions	Actual	Budgeted
January 2023 discretionary offerings	\$121,524	\$125,000
Year-to-date 2023 discretionary offerings	\$121,524	\$125,000
Magnify Campaign gifts thru 01/31/2023	\$356,000	\$750,000

Praying for a meaningful Lenten journey for each of us,

Ron Lacy  
CFO

# Magnify Campaign Update

- Pledges through January 31, 2023 total over \$720,000, nearly 96% of our total need. We are also pleased to report we have received gifts totaling \$356,000 which puts us at 47% of our total need with gifts received. We are grateful to the Lord and our Trinity family for your generosity and response to this request.
- We thank those who have already provided their commitment card and encourage others to continue to consider how you can [support this project](#).
- On Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup>, the Magnify campaign sponsored a milestone celebration during the Discipleship Hour. It was a joyous time, with 30 dozen breakfast tacos being consumed by those heading from or to their Bible class or a worship service!



## Magnify Capital Campaign Team,

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## Magnify Prayer Request/Prayer Warriors

We recognize that we can do nothing eternally significant without God's direction and blessing. So, as construction continues in the Sanctuary, please pray for the safety for those performing work in the building, that all the materials they need will be available on a timely basis, and the work will be finished on time. We also pray that our time of worship in the Gym would serve as a reminder of the power of gathering together with our Brothers and Sisters, no matter the location, to magnify our awesome God.



Prayers Warriors for our Capital Campaign are needed to pray for God's guidance in Triniy'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.

# Sanctuary Renovation Update

The renovation of the Foyer restrooms was substantially completed on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the Sanctuary was closed for construction following the worship services on February 4<sup>th</sup>. A “refresh” of the restrooms near the Gym entrance was also completed in mid-February.

The first task was to relocate the Sanctuary's audio and video equipment to the Gym, along with some liturgical worship elements, and install protection for the Sanctuary's organ and stained glass.



**Relocation to the gym.**



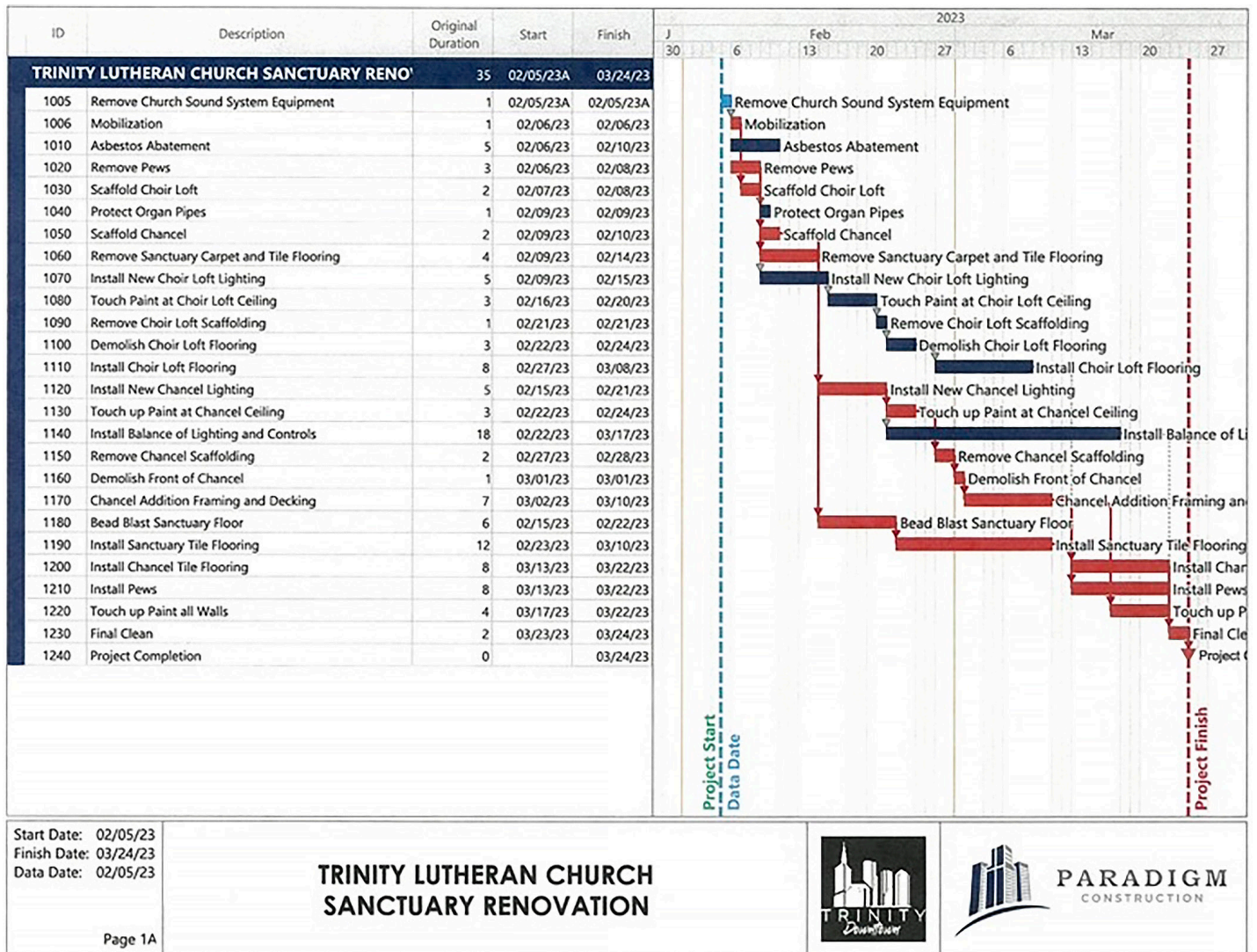
**Pews awaiting installation at Episcopal church.**

The next item of business was to remove the pews and existing flooring. The silent auction for the vintage shorter pews raised over \$2,000 toward the Magnify campaign, and nine of the 18' vintage pews went into the homes of congregants. The remainder of our pews are destined for a new home in a new Episcopal church in northwest Houston (San Romero Episcopal Church). Praise God that the pews will continue to serve a worshipping congregation!

Construction continues to be on schedule, with next steps including installing the new lights in the Chancel and the balcony, the new flooring, and, of course, the new pews. (See timeline on following page.)



**Stained glass protection, flooring removed and work on chancel lighting.**



## Membership Report

The following are the changes to membership approved at the February 4, 2023 and February 23, 2023 Governing Board meetings.

### Membership In

#### Affirmation of Faith (01/15/23)

- Nancy Christopherson
- Julie and Jim Cianciolo
- Averil Robinson
- Gregory Wayne Wingate

#### Transfer

- Lonnie, Joy and Sophie Gonzales from Gloria Dei LCMS - Houston, TX (12/8/22)

#### Baptisms

- Samuel and Amelia Creamer (12/18/22)

- Charlotte Dauphine Doga (01/08/23)
- Jace Everett Johnston (01/08/23)
- Amy Nicole Wingate (01/15/23)
- Ava Giuliano Wingate (01/15/23)
- Clark Theodore Nietzsche (02/12/23)

### Membership Out

#### Transfers

- Michelle & Andrew Gastler and children to Lazarus Church LCMS - Spring, TX (01/10/23)
- Ranny & Susan DeMoss to Concordia LCMS - San Antonio, TX (02/15/23)

#### To Glory

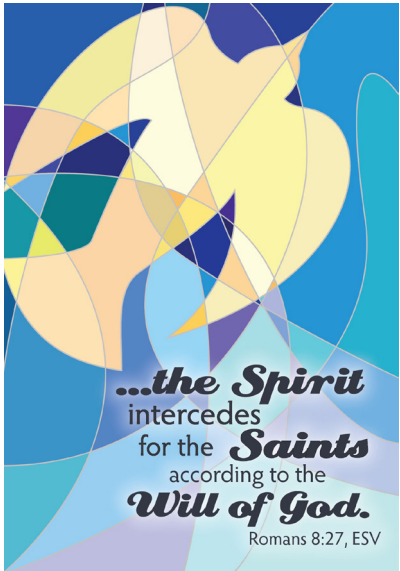
- Beverly Montalbano (12/16/22)
- Joanne Husser (01/29/23)

# Dependent Prayer: The Fuel for Outreach and Missions

*While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.* Acts 13:2-3

The rebirth of the Church is fueled by the Holy Spirit through dependent prayer and fasting. In the early days of the Church in the book of Acts, the Church was determined to set out into new frontiers of missionary work with dependent prayer. Dependent prayer is believing that when we put our hands to the plow of missions, the seed of outreach is grown out of a people dedicated to dependent prayer, because without God's intervention the task is impossible for man. In dependent prayer, the Holy Spirit speaks and gives direction for the people of God to set out into new ministry opportunities.

Unfortunately, many churches in America set out into new things without dependent prayer. The result is the pursuit of man-centered religious activities that rarely needs the intervention of God to accomplish them. A symptom of a lack of dependent prayer is ministries that set goals and plan activities that they are confident can be fulfilled through their own talent, human enterprise, and effort. A mission mandate given by the Holy Spirit in the pursuit of God through dependent prayer as it was for Paul and Barnabas in Antioch is always dependent on God to accomplish it. We believe with God all things are possible.



The redemptive work (Divine Invitation) in a fallen world needs a church community hyper-focused on the activity and work of God fueled by a community of believers who are convinced that their calling to join God in His redemptive work (Divine Invitation) is fully dependent on God and fueled by the desperate cry of His people in dependent prayer. God's redemptive work (Divine Invitation) can only be identified, clarified, and acted upon by the Holy Spirit who speaks to His church in the context of dependent prayer.

Dependent prayer begins in the weakest depths of our personal and corporate prayer rooms. It has been said, “Satan trembles when he sees the weakest of saints on his knees.” In our weakest heartfelt prayers God listens and directs us to His redemptive work (Divine Invitation) that can only be accomplished by His presence in and among us His Beloved.

Please consider joining our staff in dependent prayer during the Lenten Season. We pray together, “God help us see what You see and accomplish only that which You can accomplish within us your Beloved.” Amen.

Be Blessed my Beloved,  
Pastor Lonnie

## BOARD OF ELDERS - CONTACT INFORMATION

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# Hi, Trinity Families!

February has been a blast with movie nights for both Kids and Teens (see pictures below)! We watched *Monsters University* and *Jungle Cruise*. During our youth movie night we talked about how we see Jesus in Culture after we watched *Jungle Cruise*! March looks forward to an off campus service day during Spring Break and a paintball event for the youth! I am so excited!

If you haven't already, make sure to pick up your Lenten Countdown Activity Card Set! They are located in the Gathering Space or just inside the Gym! Remember to tune into our YouTube channel for daily devotions during Lent and see how many times I pop up! Also, remember to RSVP for Easter in a Box! The last day to reserve your box is March 6<sup>th</sup>!



First Communion Class will continue through March 26<sup>th</sup> and will be celebrated on April 6<sup>th</sup> at the Seder Meal (see the article on page 2). We will take pictures of our six confirmands at the end of March in preparation for the Confirmation Service on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11: 30 a.m.!



Blessings in Jesus' Name,  
Haley Davisson

*Night at the Derby*

*a Gala Benefitting*  
**LUTHERAN NORTH ACADEMY**

**March 31, 2023 at 7pm**  
**The Bell Tower – 1130 W. 34th St.**



# Renewing Our Minds

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2 ESV*

St. Paul tells us in this scripture that finding the will of God for our lives apparently requires “testing.” Perhaps we could interpret this text as telling us to expect “some trial and error will be involved” in finding God’s will. Or perhaps Paul is telling us that “being tested” will be inherent in the process of discerning God’s direction for our lives.

In truth, it’s probably a bit of both.

In either case, cultivating a healthy mind and body will be an important foundation as we journey through this discernment process. Having a “renewed mind” is essential to our relationship with God, our overall health, and the quality of our life. So, what can each of us do to play our part in keeping our minds and bodies ready to hear God’s whispers? Here are a few habits we can build:

- Get regular exercise. Small amounts of exercise add up, so don’t be discouraged if you can’t spend 30 minutes a day jogging or lifting weights!
- Eat a balanced diet.
- Make sleep a priority. This may be the most difficult habit to cultivate, but it may also be the most important. God designed us to sleep, and we shouldn’t short-change the process.
- Practice gratitude in prayer and in your relationships.
- Stay connected to God and other people. Isolation may be the most damaging bad habit we can fall into.

Of course, our Creator knows that we need all these good things. God knows we desperately need to develop a deep relationship with Him, and with our fellow pilgrims. **Trinity Downtown’s worship services, Discipleship Hour classes and service opportunities all offer superb opportunities to worship God, express gratitude, and build soul-affirming and inter-generational relationships.**

**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. You can reach out to Trinity’s Stephen Ministry for assistance.** Stephen Ministers are laypeople 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](mailto:rlacy@trinitydt.org) or 713.229.2970.

*Do not be conformed to this world,  
but be transformed  
by the renewing of your minds...*

Romans 12:2



# Trinity Ladies Circle Ministries

The next meeting of Trinity Ladies Circle will be Thursday, March 2, at 10:00 a.m. We will meet in the Gathering Space. Our business meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. followed by a presentation by Pastor Jose Argueta (see bio below) starting around 10:30 a.m.

This will be a potluck (cold or room-temperature dishes only) to celebrate January, February and March birthdays. Feel free to bring a guest.

Upcoming Ladies Circle meeting dates are: April 6<sup>th</sup>, May 4<sup>th</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>.

For additional information, please contact Trinity Garrett, president, at (c) 281.300.5660 or [tgarett@trinitydt.org](mailto:tgarett@trinitydt.org).



## REV. JOSE R. ARGUETA



Rev. Jose R Argueta is serving as mission pastor at St. Peter Lutheran Church and Administrator for Glocal Mission International Bible Institute. He is responsible for creating and implementing communications to inform students of events, connect ministries, promote curriculum programs, survey students and members and share church vision and goals. He is responsible for organizing outreach events, creating promotional materials for both the church and the Bible Institute. Pastor Jose has been doing mission work for over 4 years. He has organized short mission trips and disciple training in Costa Rica, and Mexico, where he alongside Glocal Mission is reaching the natives of Mayan descent, Maleku and other communities. He has been doing street evangelism in the Texas border of El Paso, Eagle Pass and Acuña, Mexico. He loves God, God's people and reaching the lost. He enjoys preaching and teaching the Word of God with power, conviction, and simplicity at every opportunity that avails without compromise. He loves organizing outreach events and takes every opportunity to share the gospel with his staff and patients in the hospital where he serves as manager of facility operations. He is married to Ms. Roberta Diaz, with 2 young teenagers ages 17 & 21.



**Ladies Circle  
Easter Bake Sale  
April 9th  
Free Will Donation**

Join Pastor Michael & Veloyce Dorn for a Ten Day Life-Changing  
tour of the

# HOLY LAND

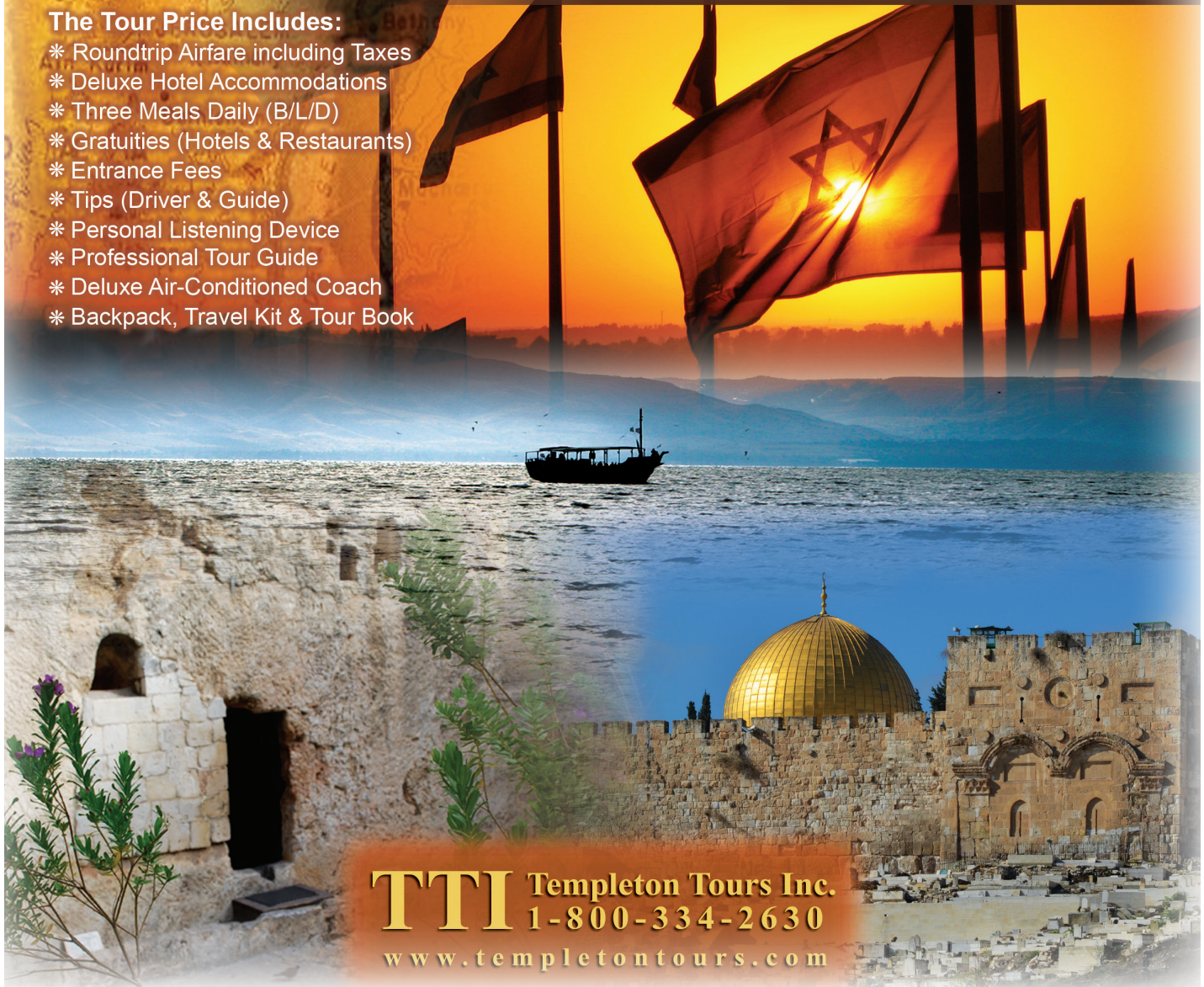


October 16 - 25, 2023

\$5,295.00 from Houston, TX

## The Tour Price Includes:

- \* Roundtrip Airfare including Taxes
- \* Deluxe Hotel Accommodations
- \* Three Meals Daily (B/L/D)
- \* Gratuities (Hotels & Restaurants)
- \* Entrance Fees
- \* Tips (Driver & Guide)
- \* Personal Listening Device
- \* Professional Tour Guide
- \* Deluxe Air-Conditioned Coach
- \* Backpack, Travel Kit & Tour Book



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[www.templeton tours.com](http://www.templeton tours.com)

### **October 16 - DEPART USA**

Today we meet at our international departure airport where our host will assist with check-in formalities. This evening we will enjoy a delicious dinner high above the Atlantic.

### **October 17 - ARRIVE TEL AVIV - JOPPA**

We arrive in Tel Aviv this morning. Upon arrival, our TEMPLETON TOURS representative will meet us and assist us in gathering our luggage. After airport procedures are completed, we will meet our local guide and driver and begin our tour of the Holy Land. We start with a visit to Joppa, Jonah's port of embarkation for Tarshish. Joppa was also the home of Tabitha (or Dorcas) who was raised from the dead by Peter. It was also here that Peter learned that God was interested in the salvation of the Gentiles. We then transfer to our hotel on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea for dinner and overnight. (D)

### **October 18 - TEL AVIV - CAESAREA - MOUNT CARMEL - MEGIDDO - NAZARETH - TIBERIAS**

After breakfast at our hotel we will travel up the coast to Caesarea by the Sea. There we will visit the Crusaders' castle, the Roman theater, the seaport from which the Apostle Paul sailed to Rome, and the Roman aqueduct system. We will continue along the coast to Mount Carmel to see the site of Elijah's triumph over the prophets of Baal. After lunch we continue north to Megiddo on the Plain of Armageddon to see King Solomon's stables and water supply system. Prophecy will come alive at Megiddo as we look over the Valley of Armageddon. We then travel to Nazareth, the boyhood home of Jesus, to visit. We will also visit The Precipice, where they wanted to throw Jesus off the "brow" and kill Him. On our way to Tiberias we will stop in the little town of Cana where Christ turned the water into wine. Then we'll proceed to our hotel in Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee for dinner and overnight. (B/L/D)

### **October 19 - TIBERIAS - SEA OF GALILEE - CAPERNAUM - MOUNT OF BEATITUDES - PETER'S PRIMACY - MAGDALA**

After breakfast we take a boat ride across the Sea of Galilee. While on the boat we'll pause for a brief worship service and remember the many miracles our Lord performed in this area. We'll dock at Nof Ginosar to visit the "Jesus Boat" museum to see a boat that dates back to the time of Jesus. Then we'll proceed to Capernaum to see the remains of an early church, the ruins of Peter's house, and the ancient synagogue. After lunch we'll travel to the Mount of Beatitudes



**Capernaum**

above the Sea of Galilee to read the Sermon on the Mount while overlooking the Jordan Valley. Next, we stop at the Primacy of Peter where Jesus commanded Peter to "Feed my sheep." Before returning to our hotel, we will visit the town of Magdala where recently a synagogue has been excavated from the time of Jesus. (B/L/D)

### **October 20 - BEIT SHE'AN - JERICHO - BETHABARA - JERUSALEM**

This morning we will leave the Galilee area travel south through the Jordan River Valley. We will stop and visit the new excavations at Beit She'an, the city where the Philistines hung the bodies of Saul and Jonathan. After a brief worship service we'll travel through the Jordan Valley to Jericho, one of the oldest cities in the world. If conditions permit, we will enter Jericho to see the excavations of the ancient walls, view the Mount of Temptation, and see Elisha's Spring. Next we'll stop at Bethabara, where John baptized those who came to him (John 1:28). This is also known as the "place of crossing" and is near the area where the children of Israel crossed into the Promised Land (Joshua 3:14-17). We then travel to Jerusalem, the capital of Israel for over 3000 years, and pause on Mount Scopus where our guide will lead us in the traditional Jewish Welcome. Dinner and overnight will be at our hotel in Jerusalem. (B/L/D)



**Sailing on the Sea of Galilee**

**October 21 - MASADA  
- DEAD SEA - EIN GEDI  
- QUMRAN - VALLEY OF  
THE SHADOW OF DEATH**

This morning we will get an early start and visit the mountain fortress of Masada, truly a remarkable piece of history. We'll ascend by cable car to visit the magnificent ruins of the fortress where the Jewish zealots made the last stand of the Judean revolt against Rome. Today the remains of Herod's buildings, palaces, storehouses, cisterns, and a 6th Century Byzantine church are still in view. After our exciting tour of Masada we will continue to the Dead Sea, where you will have the opportunity to take a dip. The Dead Sea is 1300 feet below sea level and is the lowest spot on the earth. We will then stop at Ein Gedi, a green oasis in the middle of the desert, and see the area where David hid while fleeing from King Saul. Afterwards we will travel to Qumran to see the caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. After lunch we will return to Jerusalem. On the way, we will stop to view the St. George Monastery, an active monastery since the 5th century. We will also get a glimpse of "the Valley of the Shadow of Death." (B/L/D)

**October 22 - TEMPLE MOUNT - POOL OF  
BETHESDA - MOUNT OF OLIVES - MODEL CITY  
-BETHLEHEM**

This morning we will begin our tour with a visit to the Temple Mount where the Jewish temple stood until its destruction by the Roman Legions in 70 A.D. There we will see the Dome of the Rock Mosque built over the rock where Abraham prepared to sacrifice Isaac, the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the Golden Gate. We'll continue our walk through the Old City to the beautiful Crusader Church dedicated to St. Anne and the nearby Pool of Bethesda. Then we travel a short distance to the Mount of Olives for a breathtaking view of the city of Jerusalem. While we are here, our guide will point out all of the important sites of Jerusalem. After lunch, we will visit the Model City of Jerusalem as it was in 69 AD. If conditions permit, we will then take a short drive to Bethlehem to visit the Church of the Nativity, built over the cave of Christ's birth, as well as the Shepherd's Field and plains of Boaz. We will also see the ancient crafts of Bethlehem, dating from Crusader times, and visit one of the famous Bethlehem gift shops. (B/L/D)

**October 23 - WESTERN WALL TUNNEL -  
PILATE'S PALACE - UPPER ROOM - JEWISH  
QUARTER - SOUTHERN WALL EXCAVATIONS -  
CITY OF DAVID**

We begin with a visit to the famous Western Wall and Tunnel Excavation site. Here we will walk on the very stones where Jesus trod to Herod's "second temple" and see the place where our Savior taught the Scriptures. Then we will visit the Antonia Fortress, site of Pilate's Palace. We'll pass many of the traditional 14 Stations of the Cross on the Via Dolorosa and also



**Praying at Gethsemane**

see part of the old colorful oriental market. We will continue our walk and visit the restored Jewish Quarter and the Roman Cardo, the main street of Jerusalem in Roman times. We will then proceed to Mount Zion to visit the Upper Room, traditional site of the Last Supper and the fire of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. We will be visiting the Southern

Wall excavation site. Here we will walk on the very stones where Jesus trod to Herod's "second temple" and see the place where our Savior taught the Scriptures. At the end of the day, we will see the City of David and Hezekiah's Tunnel and then return to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B/L/D)

**October 24 - GETHSEMANE - POOL OF SILOAM  
- HOUSE OF CAIAPHAS - LUTHERAN CHURCH OF  
THE RESURRECTION**

Today is our last day in the Holy Land so we want to make the most of it. We will begin with a visit to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus had His agony and was betrayed. There we will pause for devotion and prayer time in a private garden. After our worship service, we will take a short walk through the Valley of the Tombs. Along the way we will pass the traditional tombs of Absalom and Ezra. After our walk we will visit the recent archaeological discovery of the Pool of Siloam. This is the place where Jesus told the blind man to wash the mud from his eyes so he would see. Then we will visit the House of Caiaphas where Peter denied Christ three times. After lunch, we will conclude our tour of the Holy Land with a visit to the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, where we can remember Christ's crucifixion, burial, and resurrection and share in the Lord's Supper. After communion we will return to the hotel for dinner. (B/L/D)

**October 25 - ARRIVE USA**

Today our memorable journey comes to an end. We will transfer to the airport in Tel Aviv and board the plane for our return flight home. In flight we can fellowship with our friends and remember the many things we shared together.



**Lutheran Church  
of the Redeemer**

**DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS:** A deposit of \$250.00 per person is required to make a reservation. An additional payment of \$750.00 per person is due June 13, 2023. The final payment is due no less than 60 days prior to the departure date of the tour (August 17, 2023). Payment can be made by personal check or money order. Credit card payments beyond the initial deposit will be accepted for an additional non-refundable fee of 3%. Reservations received after June 13, 2023 may incur additional charges due to supplier contract terms.

**CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS:** If a passenger cancels his/her tour membership there will be a cancellation fee of one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) per person up until 91 days before departure. For cancellations 90-60 days before departure the cancellation fee will be \$250.00 per person. There will be no refund for cancellations within 59 days of departure, no-shows, or partially completed tours. All cancellation requests must be addressed to TEMPLETON TOURS INC. in writing.

**COVID PROTOCOLS:** There are presently no COVID requirements for visiting Israel. Registered passengers will be notified of any changes to the COVID protocols.

**FARE INCLUSIVE:** Roundtrip air transportation from Houston, TX (IAH). Nine (9) nights hotel accommodations, based on two people sharing a double or twin-bedded room in four-star hotels. All meals as outlined in the brochure consisting of full Israeli breakfasts (B), lunches (L), and table d'hôte dinners at the hotel (D). Sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary by private motorcoaches, utilizing the services of a local English speaking guide. Entrance fees for attractions if applicable. All transfers between airports and hotels by private motorcoach. Service charges and taxes normally levied by hotels and restaurants. All U.S. & Israeli departure taxes are included in the price of the tour. Tips to guides, motorcoach drivers, hotel porters, and restaurant staff (i.e., maitre d', table waiter, etc.) are also included. The brochure price is per person in US dollars.

**TOUR ITINERARY SUBJECT TO CHANGE:** TTI strives to adhere to the printed itinerary; however, circumstances may necessitate changes without advance notice during the tour. TTI reserves the right to change the itinerary, and is not responsible for any changes caused by unforeseen circumstances beyond our control.

**TOUR CANCELLATION:** TTI reserves the right to cancel or withdraw the tour at any time. In the event of a cancellation deemed necessary by TTI, the sole and exclusive responsibility of TEMPLETON TOURS is to refund all monies recovered.

**NOT INCLUDED:** Passport costs, visa fees (if any), and health documentation costs (when required); food and beverages (including coffee and tea) not usually included with the table d'hôte meals; optional sightseeing tours and excursions; accident and baggage insurance; transporting and handling excess luggage; tips to persons rendering special personal services; items of a purely personal nature such as laundry, telephone, room service orders, etc.; transportation between the home city and the international departure city.

**AIR ROUTINGS:** The price includes IATA jet economy class transportation from the international departure city applicable on all IATA and ARC carriers, based on the 6/45 day Apex fare to the Middle East. TTI reserves the right to choose the air carrier, routing, and departure time for each passenger. Airfares used are based on contracted group fares and are highly restrictive. Payments for and restrictions on airline tickets are governed by the applicable fare. Cancellation fees levied by the airlines are applicable if you cancel or change your air ticket for any reason after purchase of air ticket. Ticketing must be completed 45 days prior to departure. Group fares do not permit deviations; passengers who wish to deviate may arrange their own airfare. An airline credit of \$1,295 will be given to those passengers who arrange their own airfare. Passengers planning to arrange their own air transportation must notify TTI in writing on or before August 2, 2023. Seat numbers will be assigned by the airline at check-in; specific seat requests cannot be guaranteed. Passengers are responsible for providing frequent flyer information upon check-in.

**HOTELS:** Tour prices are per person, based on two people sharing a room. Single rooms are subject to availability and at an additional cost of \$1,295. (Tour participants without a roommate will have to pay single room surcharge.)

**BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE:** One (1) piece of checked luggage whose overall dimensions do not exceed 62 inches (length + width + height) and whose weight does not exceed fifty (50) pounds in total. One (1) piece of carry-on luggage & one personal item (i.e. purse, laptop bag, backpack). Tips to hotel porters are included for one normal sized piece of luggage, excluding carry-on bags which must remain in your possession at all times. Regulations are subject to change without notice. Please read the monthly correspondence from TEMPLETON TOURS for the most current information. Dangerous articles such as firearms, explosives, oxygen, or combustible substances are prohibited in your luggage. Medications, valuables, passports, and a change of clothing should be packed in your carry-on bag.

**DISABILITIES:** Due to the difficult terrain at sites we will visit, persons requiring oxygen or oxygen therapy will not be permitted on the tour. For reasons of passenger safety and well-being, persons with impaired mobility, vision, or mental capacity will not be permitted on the tour. TEMPLETON TOURS, INC. reserves the right to refuse passage to someone who is in such physical or mental condition as to be unfit for travel or who may require care and attention beyond that which the tour guide and tour host can provide. The tour requires a substantial amount of walking and the sites are not accessible by wheelchair.

**INSURANCE:** Acting only as agents for suppliers, TEMPLETON TOURS is not responsible for damage, loss, or theft of luggage and/or personal belongings, or for personal injury, accident, illness and/or death as a result of any occurrences or conditions beyond its control, including, but not limited to, defects in vehicles, breakdown in equipment, strikes, terrorist attacks, hostage situations, kidnappings, hijackings, protests, riots, public demonstrations, or theft. For your protection, it is important that you have adequate insurance to cover these possibilities. Information and application forms for all types of coverage will be supplied you prior to departure.

**PASSPORT:** Each tour member is required to present a valid passport with an expiration date of April 24, 2024 or later. Complete instructions and application forms for passports can be obtained by contacting your local courthouse or post office. Name on Registration Form must match name as it appears on your Passport.

**PRICE CHANGES:** Tour conditions and air fares are subject to Governmental, IATA, ARC, and airline regulation requirements in effect at the date of and during the tour. All rates are quoted in US dollars and are subject to change without notice. Taxes and fuel surcharges are included in your tour cost and are subject to change without notice. Templeton Tours reserves the right to pass along fuel surcharges or additional taxes imposed by the airline.

**DISCLAIMER:** TEMPLETON TOURS INC. acts as a tour operator and only a tour operator. The suppliers providing transportation and sightseeing arrangements and hotel accommodations for the tour program are independent contractors and are not agents or employees of TTI. All coupons, receipts and tickets are issued subject to the terms and conditions specified by the suppliers. By utilizing the services of the suppliers, you agree that TTI shall not be liable for any accident, loss, injury, death, or damage of any kind to you or to those traveling with you. This includes, but is not limited to, conditions beyond its control, defects in vehicles, breakdown in equipment, strikes, terrorist attacks, hostage situations, kidnappings, hijackings, protests, riots, public demonstrations, theft, delay or cancellation of or changes in itinerary or schedules. At the time of printing a TRAVEL WARNING as issued by the United States Department of State was in effect for parts of Israel and the West Bank. Remember also that all travel documents as well as compliance with customs regulations are your responsibility. The terms under which you agree to take these tours cannot be changed or amended except in writing, signed by an authorized officer of TTI. Airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time you are not on board the aircraft. The passenger contract in use by the airline, when issued, constitutes the sole agreement between it and you. By virtue of my signature on the registration form below I acknowledge and assume all risks associated with this trip and I agree that TTI assumes no liability of any kind and I hereby expressly waive any and all possible claims against TEMPLETON TOURS, Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church, or Pastor Michael & Veloyce Dorn

For additional information call Templeton Tours at 1-800-334-2630 or online at [www.templeontours.com](http://www.templeontours.com)

COMPLETE AND MAIL WITH DEPOSIT PAYABLE TO: TEMPLETON TOURS PO BOX 2630 BOONE, NC 28607

Tour# 31016

## Pastor Michael Dorn Holy Land Tour Registration Form - October 16 - 25, 2023

☐ Enclosed is my payment of \$250 per person by ☐ check or ☐ credit card as a deposit for the \$5,295 per person tour from Houston, TX  
☐ For an additional fee, please arrange my air transportation from my local airport of: \_\_\_\_\_ (city/state).  
 Single Passenger-Choose one: ☐ Single Occupant - additional \$1295.00 ☐ Please assign me a roommate.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name as it appears on your Passport Date of Birth \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Nametag Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name as it appears on your Passport Date of Birth \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Nametag Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name as it appears on your Passport Date of Birth \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Nametag Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cell (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Home (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

☐ My roommate(s): \_\_\_\_\_ (if sending in a separate registration form)

Emergency Contact: Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and agree to the Tour Conditions as stated above. \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature)

**Credit card payments will be accepted for the \$250 per person deposit. Additional payments will be subject to a 3% fee.**

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ CSC \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Master Card, VISA, or Discover) (month/year) (security code on back)

I agree to the conditions as stated above and authorize TTI to charge my credit card. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

# Go Texan Chili Cook Off

On February 26<sup>th</sup> the Trinity family gathered together for a time of fellowship and fun at our Go Texan Chili Cook Off. Thank you to the contestants (Travis Avant/Crescencio Gonzalez, Azucena Bech, Reggie Buford, Nathan Davis, Pat Cleary, Ron Mueller, Pastor Lonnie, Cynthia Roney and Rachel Voigt) who participated in the Chili Cook Off and the Holy Smokers for the brisket and sides.

Prizes were awarded to Reggie Buford (1<sup>st</sup> place), Crescencio Gonzalez/Travis Avant (2<sup>nd</sup> place) and Pat Cleary and Nathan Davis (tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> place).

Check out the pictures below and on the next page.



Crescencio Gonzales/Travis Avant



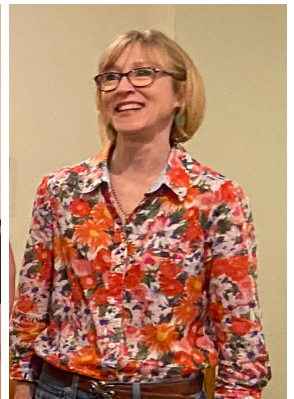
Azucena Bech



Reggie Buford



Nathan Davis



Pat Cleary



Ron Mueller



Pastor Lonnie



Cynthia Roney



Rachel Voigt





# 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

**Foundations 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades** - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 207

**First Communion** (5<sup>th</sup> grade+) - 1:30 PM - Underground)

**Confirmation** (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades) - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 208

**High School** (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) - 10:15-11:15 AM - Underground

## 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.

### Escape from Egypt: Exodus

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

Trusting God sounds simple, but can be often very, very difficult to do so with the things that matter most to you. Join us as we study the book of Exodus. You'll see that Israel faced similar struggles to trust God completely. In this story of hardship and hope, you'll discover along with Israel that God—and God alone—is worthy of our trust. Discussion-oriented.

### Joining Jesus on His Mission

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

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.

### 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.

### **The Gospel According to John**

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

The Apostle John wrote his Gospel "so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name." In our day when the good news of Jesus is a stumbling block or just plain foolishness for many people, the Gospel according to John will serve well to deepen and strengthen our faith in Jesus as the Christ. The class will meet each Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Please email Pastor Paul Dorn at [pbdorn6@gmail.com](mailto:pbdorn6@gmail.com) if you wish to be part of this study and he will send you a link for the Zoom meeting.

## **TUESDAYS - ADULTS**

### **Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study - LifeLight: Acts, Part I**

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

In this online study of Romans, we not only discuss Paul's message to the Christians at Rome, but look back at the Old Testament references scattered throughout the letter.

We will continue to gather on zoom to allow those with young children, long commutes, and out of town obligations to enjoy our time together. All women are welcome!

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

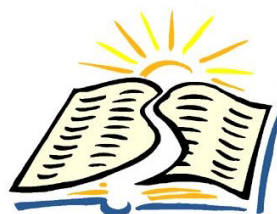
Led by Jim Cleary - 7:00-8:00 PM - Virtual

## **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!*

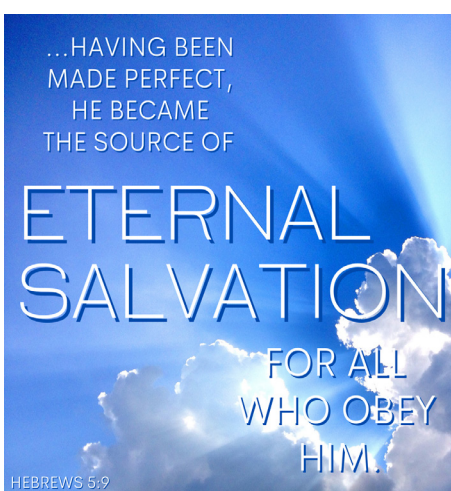
Turn  
unto the  
*Lord your God:*  
for he is  
*gracious and merciful,*  
slow to anger, and of  
**great kindness.**

Joel 2:13, KJV

## Life Quote - March 26

"The God who chose to give us life at the moment of fertilization is the same God who chose to rescue us and redeem us and give us salvation. And He did it by sending His Son, Jesus, to experience every stage of human life so we could be forgiven and given life everlasting with Him!"

Rev. Craig Michaelson, Faith Community Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, Nevada –  
A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •  
[lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)



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

Trinity Downtown

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713-224-0684



Article submission deadline is **March 13** for articles to be published April 1, 2023.

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

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