

Vol. 25, No. 8 August 1, 2023

Hymnal Marathon - August 12

Organist, Benjamin Kolodziej will play through all 635 hymns in the Lutheran Service Book live from Trinity Downtown on Saturday, August 12 starting at 9:00 a.m.

Playing on Trinity's 50-rank Holtkamp/Reuter organ, Kolodziej will play a creative introduction and one stanza of each hymn with this endeavor ending about 7:00 p.m. that evening. The church will be open for anyone to drop in and listen live or you may listen throughout the day as we live stream this marathon on Trinity's YouTube channel and on our website.

The hymnal, containing a treasury of the Church's songs, deserves to be explored and sung that its hymns might edify, comfort, encourage, and provide the Word of God to all, and this event serves to draw attention to our heritage of sacred song.

Benjamin Kolodziej holds an undergraduate degree in organ performance as well as graduate degrees in sacred music and theology from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. His primary organ studies have been with Robert Anderson, Larry



Palmer, Richard DeLong, George Baker, and Jon Gillock. He has performed solo organ concerts in Norway, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, and Italy and throughout the UK. A frequent performer for concerts and hymn festivals in the USA, his venues have included St. Patrick's Cathedral and St. Thomas Church in New York City, Washington National Cathedral, and St. Philip's Cathedral in Atlanta. He is a frequent writer on topics of organ and church music for national publications, including The American Organist. Kolodziej is organist and choirmaster at St. John's Episcopal Church in Dallas, Texas, and is also organist at Perkins Chapel at Southern Methodist University, where he plays for one hundred weddings a year. As a hobby, he collects antiquarian hymnals and theological literature. He is a member of Faith Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Plano, Texas. Kolodziej recently published a book, Joyful Singing: A Story of Lutheran Sacred Music in Texas.







Website

Fall Kickoff at Trinity



The excitement never stops at Trinity Downtown! We have had a great summer and now it's time to kick off an amazing fall! We will celebrate the beginning of a new school year here at church!

August 27th is Kickoff Sunday! If you have kids who are 0-18 this will be the first Sunday they are in their new Discipleship Hour class for the year! The grade they are entering this fall is the Discipleship Hour class they will be in!

Please make sure you fill out the

liability and photo release form (click on link or scan QR code) as it will be



vital to your child(ren) attending other ministry events throughout the year!

August 27th will be different from any other Sunday of the year! No matter what age group you are in, everyone 0-18 will start in the gym. Parents, stick around, because after opening in the gym you will have a chance to go with your kids to see their rooms! It will be a great opportunity to check in with your child(ren)'s leader to make sure we have all your contact info and their birthdays! We love celebrating biological birthdays and baptism birthdays! Please help us do that well!

We will bless the backpacks in the worship service that day! Students (all ages) bring your backpack and we will give you something special to go on it!

This is a celebration for all of us! What do celebrations always need? Food; and yes, you guessed it, our Holy Smokers team will be making us a DELICIOUS meal! We will serve lunch promptly at 11:30 a.m.! Everyone is invited to join us as we begin the fall with new energy!

Golf Cart Drivers Wanted

If you love driving a golf cart, this is the perfect ministry for you. The Golf Cart Ministry helps move people from LEAH Downtown Academy's parking lot (across Washington Ave.) to Trinity's main building. Drivers are needed on Sunday mornings before and after worship and Discipleship Hour as well as for special events. Golf Cart Drivers need to be age 18 or older.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Ron Mueller at 713.206.9773 or goron1@ msn.com.



Sunday Movie Bible Study with LUNCH!

On Sunday, August 13th there will be a special movie Bible study with lunch sponsored by Stephen Ministry. This will be a great family event and something that **all ages** can enjoy. The movie that we'll be watching is *Ratatouille* — a Disney classic (and Pastor Dorn's all-time favorite movie) about a rat who can cook and makes an unusual alliance with a young kitchen worker at a famous Paris restaurant. Pastor Dorn will use this fun movie as a catalyst to dive into key themes covered in Scripture



including identity, truth, and character. It's filled with great life application.

Food will be provided for this event and RSVPs (watch your email for RSVP request) are appreciated. Water and coffee will be provided and you are welcome to bring beer or wine. We'll have tables set up in the Gym and we will start at 11:30 a.m. and should finish by 2:00 p.m. Come and indulge in this great Sunday event that will include food, fellowship and The Word! You will even have an opportunity to sample some Ratatouille!

Join the Music Ministry This Fall!

Do you like to sing or play handbells? Wouldn't you like to join our Choir or Handbell Choir this fall? This is how it works.

The choir rehearses one Sunday per month on Sunday mornings from 10:15 – 11:45 a.m. in the Choir loft. This group then sings for worship the following Sunday. The special music for other Sundays each month will be provided by ensembles or soloists from within the choir or by the Handbell Choir. The soloists and small ensemble members prepare on their own and then rehearse

on Sunday morning before our worship service. Handbells rehearse one to two Sundays per month from 11:20 a.m. -12:20 p.m. in Room 214

and typically play on the second Sunday of each month.

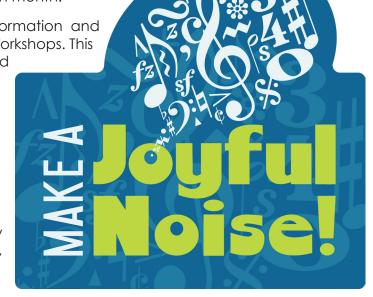
To prepare for special occasions such as Reformation and Christmas, the Choir will have special Saturday Workshops. This fall's workshops are scheduled for October 21 and

December 16 from 9:00 a.m. - noon.

Come check us out.

- Choir rehearsals will begin August 20, 10:15 -11:15 a.m.
- Handbell Choir rehearsals begin September 3, 11:20 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

If you have any questions, or if you play another instrument, please contact Mary Voigt, 281.543.0407.



Ever Tried to Help, But Wound Up Putting Your Foot in Your Mouth?

I think we can all relate to this situation: Your friend or loved one has just encountered a big loss in their lives. Perhaps they received a negative medical diagnosis or found that their parents were divorcing. Maybe they just lost their job or lost a pregnancy.

You want to help. You want to say just the right words that will bring comfort. You want to be "Jesus with skin on" to your grieving friend.

We've all been in these kinds of situations, but sometimes it can be all too easy to say words that have the opposite effect.

The Stephen Ministries organization have a new book titled "The Gift of Empathy". In their research, they found five common empathy busters to watch out for:



"I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL."

People told us over and over in our research that they strongly disliked this phrase. They felt like the other person was dismissing the uniqueness of their pain. In reality, nobody can ever know exactly how someone else feels, so avoid this phrase.



"YOU HAVE A LOT TO BE THANKFUL FOR."

While it might seem helpful, encouraging someone to focus on what they have to be thankful for communicates, "You shouldn't be feeling the way you feel. Look on the bright side instead." This empathy buster invalidates the other person's feelings and can come across as judgmental.



"IT COULD BE WORSE."

As one person said, "Yes, it can always be worse, but that sure doesn't make me feel any better!" This cliché pushes people to change their mindset, which doesn't help when they're already dealing with a challenging situation.



"GOD DOESN'T GIVE YOU MORE THAN YOU CAN HANDLE."

When people are already struggling, being told that God gave them this difficult load and expects them to be able to bear it can cause a host of negative reactions. This phrase dismisses their emotions, and they'll likely feel worse.



"YOU SHOULD/SHOULDN'T . . ."

Empathy is about the other person—their feelings, wants, and needs. Telling someone what they should or shouldn't do minimizes their feelings and treats them like a project instead of a person.

You can dig deeper into this subject by going to www.thegiftofempathy.org.

If you or a loved one are going through a period of grief, or are so tired that you're ready to give up, Trinity Downtown has a ministry that might be right for you.

Stephen Ministers are commissioned members of our congregation who have received 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. While Stephen Ministers are NOT trained to assist those (of any age) suffering from serious mental health challenges, they CAN provide a listening ear to those who are facing anxiety or difficulties.

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.

Orphan Grain Train Update

Orphan Grain Train is a 501c3 Nonprofit Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with needy people in America and around the world. Grain Train volunteers gather donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature, and other aid to meet real needs. The Orphan Grain Train movement is a loving response to Jesus Christ's example as a servant and His love for us. Contact Delynda Cruz at delynda@

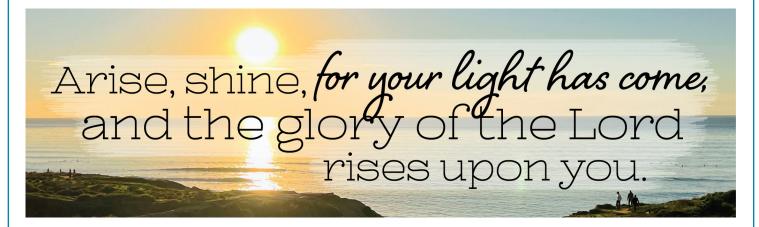


Relief for Human Need Worldwide

juno.com for more information on how Trinity Downtown works with OGT.

- **Next Sorting & Packing Day** Saturday, August 19th from 8:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. Location: 5050 E. Sam Houston Parkway S. 77505. Hope to see you there!
- **Thank You** In May, young and older volunteers from six area churches and other community ministries efficiently joined together packing over 120 boxes.
- **Giving Thanks** 1st Presbyterian Pasadena hosted a quilting event finishing over 65 blankets which were blessed during a church service, then donated to OGT for distribution. Blessings abound among God's people.
- **Domestic Shipment** In June, a second trailer load carrying 300-plus boxes of clothing and blankets was delivered to Mission, TX.
- **Building Construction** As **we pray** and **wait patiently** for all the necessary paperwork to be finalized, we continue to give thanks in all things, giving glory to God for His faithfulness to us as we serve others.

In His service, Mike Rathie - OGT Branch Manager, 281.723.4989



Finance Corner - August 2023

[Jesus said] Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Matthew 24:45-46 (ESV)

Despite the record-breaking heat, this summer has been a busy time in our church community. We had 29 individuals participating in the middle school and high school youth mission trips. Average worship attendance in June was 14% higher than June of 2022, creating a palatable sense of excitement in the air. Compared with June of 2022, attendance at the Traditional service increased by 126 worshippers.

Our Discipleship Hour classes averaged 176 participants in June, which is a bit higher than 2022 despite the fact that CASA, or Spanish-language partner, put their Discipleship Hour classes on hiatus for this summer. Perhaps most importantly, in early June, we added 20 new members to the Congregation!

Gifts to our Magnify Capital Campaign totaled \$667k at the end of June, with pledges of \$762k exceeding our \$750k goal. Giving to the general needs of the church were not so rosy; for the month of June, tithes and offerings were 17% (or roughly \$24,000) lower than our monthly budget. Total revenue for the year so far was 11.5% (or roughly \$99,000) lower than our budget, although 2023's revenues are actually 1% higher than the same period in 2022.

Our YTD operational expenses through June were 1% lower than our budget and were 3% higher than what was incurred during the same period last year.

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

June 2023 Summary			
	In-person	Online	
Average Worship Attendance	251	166	
	Adults	Students	
Avg. Discipleship Hour Attendance	138	38	
Contributions	Actual	Budgeted	
May 2023 tithes and offerings	\$121,030	\$145,000	
Year-to-date 2023 tithes and offerings	\$760,773	\$860,000	
	Received	Pledged	
Magnify Campaign gifts thru 06/30/2023	\$666,965	\$761,752	

As you can see, we are on-track to leave summertime with three weeks of tithes and offerings "missing" from our giving. Your gifts of time, treasure and prayer are an important way you can participate in sharing the love of Christ to our city, so please prayerfully consider how the Lord would have you respond to our financial shortage.

Honored to serve you, Ron Lacy CFO

Volunteers Needed to Serve in Our Homeless Ministry



Every Monday through Friday from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m., Trinity provides sack lunches and toiletries (when requested) to the homeless community around us.

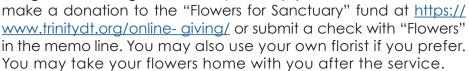
We are currently in need of a volunteer for Thursday mornings. All you need is a smiling face and heart for those in need. As a volunteer, you will fill the lunch sacks with Vienna sausages, crackers and bottled water and then greet the homeless with a lunch when they come to the foyer door.

If you cannot serve on Thursdays, substitutes are also needed. Please contact Rick Berg at oldhippie@gmail.com or 281.455.5413 if you can serve in this vital ministry or if you would like more information.

Flowers at Our Altar

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 (713.229.2950) to sign up.





When signing up for flowers, please give a two-week notice. If you have a special request, Sue will attempt to accommodate your request but it will depend on flower availability. A two-week notice is required for any special request.

Thank you so much for helping provide flowers for our Sanctuary. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Bowman at 713.229.2950.





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/Sec.)
Mike Sterling (Elder)

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

Hey, Trinity Families

Wow! July flew by! First, I wanted to share a little bit about the mission trip in late June! Our ten students and four chaperones traveled to Colorado Springs and got to serve on three sites. We made a huge impact on that community but more importantly they made a huge impact on us. You can read more about both trips on page 11!

We had our shareholders dinner and lock-in on July 14th. Both were spectacular. Check out a few pictures below! Our kids ministry had two events, one for the younger families to bond hosted by a congregation member! It was amazing! The second was for the older students who are late elementary early middle school since their summer looks so different from the rest of our youth in terms of trips. It was a really fun day and I truly enjoyed it!

August looks forward to a beach day for our confirmation and high school students on August 19th and Kickoff on August 27th for our kids and congregation. I'm truly excited to celebrate the new school year together with lunch, fun games and great fellowship! Don't forget to bring your backpack to worship for a special blessing on that day!

Haley Davisson, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries



Shareholders Dinner and Youth Lock-in









Kids Ministry Young Families Event













Kids Ministry Older Student Event











Mission Trips Recap

Thank you so much for your support and prayers. Our mission teams truly enjoyed and learned from each trip. I thought I'd send out a quick recap.

The middle schoolers served June 5-8th and were mixed into three different crews with Trinity-Klein students. All three crews served at Star of Hope (a battered women's

shelter), Houston Food Bank, Houston Furniture Bank (an organization committed to making sure no child sleeps on the ground) and Trinity Downtown Sack Lunch Ministry. We had breakfast at Trinity



each morning, packed our lunches and went out to serve our community! We returned for dinner and fellowship each night. Our evenings were closed out with worship, working through the theme of "Everything for the King, Everything for the Kingdom.'' Our students were challenged to be outside of their comfort zone in many ways but all of them rose to meet that challenge. Thursday was our final day with a well-earned free day at Typhoon Texas. The kids had such a great time! We had an amazing week and I am truly blessed because of it!

The high schoolers trekked with me to Colorado Springs, Colorado. We had an amazing two days of travel to get there and were blessed by the hospitality and worship of Prince of Peace in Amarillo. During the week we served on three different sites. One crew painted the exterior of a house and served at Crossfire Food Bank. The second crew did landscaping for a community member including the beginnings of a new sidewalk. Finally, the third crew started out with a flooring project at a local church and had to adjust because of potential asbestos; they finished the week painting bathrooms and leveling out land for a community garden at that church. Friday was our free day and we spent it at the lake, playing in the water, playing volleyball and hiking. It was a blast! Our two-day adventure back to Houston was also awesome, the students really were troopers. We got to experience worship at Our Redeemer in Wichita Falls, Texas and made it home at 5 p.m. on July 2nd! It was an amazing trip!

You can watch picture slideshows of our adventures for each trip by clicking the links below. You may have to download the video for it to play if it won't let you watch it immediately.

Middle School Mission Trip
High School Mission Trip

Life Quote - August 13

"In Jesus there is healing; there is forgiveness. You, dear brother and sister in Christ, need not fear His wrath. For you, the words 'Christ is risen' are good words, they are the best words. They are words so good they should not be contained but shared with the world. They are pure Gospel." Rev. Dr. Jason Broge, Guest Speaker on "The Lutheran Hour"

A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • <u>lutheransforlife.org</u>



Magnify Campaign Update

- The Magnify campaign is the first step in our plan to revitalize our facilities and, through these
 improvements, carry out the Lord's Great Commission to bring others into our Trinity community
 through both worship services and other community outreach events, including performances
 and concerts.
- The final pieces of the Sanctuary Refresh are nearing completion with anticipated lighting installation in late July. We are pleased to report that through June 30th, pleages to the Magnify campaign total \$756,000, exceeding our pleage goal. Gifts through June 30th total \$609,500, or 81% of total funds needed.
- Any capital campaign gifts above the original campaign goal of \$750,000 will be used to defray the Sanctuary Refresh construction costs that were incurred and paid for out of cash reserves.
- Thank you to all who have supported this renovation, through your gifts, prayers, and encouragement. The Magnify campaign will continue through the end of 2023, so if you have not yet contributed, we ask that you prayerfully consider how you might participate in this effort to bring the grace and love of Jesus to our community.



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Save the Date!

TRINITY CONCERT SERIES

PRESENTS

Organist

Daryl Robinson



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 2:30 PM

Daryl Robinson has earned international acclaim from critics and audiences alike being described as an artist with . . . "a driving muscular poetry underpinned by nimble technique and nuanced sense of style. . ." (Choir and Organ) and possessing ". . . flawless technique and rhythmic verve. . ." (The American Organist).

BOARD OF ELDERS - CONTACT INFORMATION

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Chris Sonneborn	<u>csonneb@gmail.com</u>	713.854.8692
Mike Sterling	. nasasterling@gmail.com	713.299.7238

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

Foundations 56 (5^{th} - 6^{th} grades) - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 207 **Confirmation** (7^{th} - 8^{th} grades) - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 208* **High School** (7^{th} - 12^{th} grades) - 10:15-11:15 AM - Underground



SUNDAYS - ADULT

Encouraged

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

Feeling down or a little discouraged? See what the Bible has to say about encouragement, and especially how we can encourage one another. Discussion-oriented.

Isaiah - The Herald of the Messiah

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

Christmas in July is a popular summer device for sales, TV shows and movies. We will continue our own celebration looking toward Christmas with Isaiah, the Old Testament prophet who is quoted more than any other in the New Testament. Many, and probably most of these, point to the birth of Jesus, the Messiah. This is not a thorough verse by verse study, but rather a look at selected passages that highlight God's promises of our Savior through Isaiah.

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.

Pastor's Study - Scripture De Jour

Led by the Pastors - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 123 - In Person

Pastor Dorn and Pastor Lonnie will be hosting a Bible Study each week through the summer months with a Bible Scripture of the Week selected by the teaching Pastor. We hope to stimulate conversation and discuss developing meaningful relationships guided by the Scriptures and the Spirit.

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 (On hiatus until August 27th.)

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 if you wish to be part of this study and he will send you a link for the Zoom meeting.

TUESDAYS - ADULTS

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 Sermon on the Mount

Led by Mary Oliver - 6:30-7:45 PM - Virtual (In person the last Wednesday of the month)

Wednesday Women's Bible Study will continue through the summer looking carefully at the Sermon on the Mount and Jesus' familiar words from Matthew 5-7 about what it means to be part of His kingdom. Join us to explore Old Testament references to help us gain a deeper understanding into the context of His words.

We will continue to meet on zoom each Wednesday evening and will get together in person on the last Wednesday of each month for fellowship. The class will meet on August 2 and then take a break until September 6th. All women are welcome!

<u>Virtual Midweek Spiritual Check-in</u>

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

THURSDAYS - ADULTS

Sonrise Bible Study

Led by Bill Fischer, Pastor Black and individual class members - 7:30-8:30 AM - Virtual

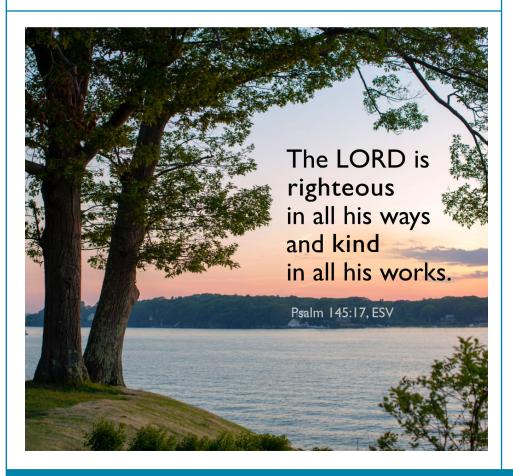
This member-led virtual class primarily discusses the Scripture readings assigned for the following Sunday. The class is open to men and women. For more information contact Bill Fischer at 832.459.3241 or the church office.

* The 7th & 8th grade students will continue to meet with the High School class until August 27th.

Children's Discipleship Hour Leaders Needed

preparation for the Fall kickoff of our children's Discipleship Hour, we are in need of a partner teacher $3^{rd}/4^{th}$ grade. If you have a passion for another group of students we'd love your help there too! Please email Haley Davisson (hdavisson@ trinitydt.org) if you are feeling a tua from the Holy Spirit to help this important ministry!





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

www.trinitydt.org

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Article submission deadline is **August 14** for articles to be published <u>September 1, 2023</u>. Submit articles to <u>pschroeder@trinitydt.org</u>.

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