

Vol. 26, No. 2

February 1, 2024

Lenten Video Series – The Gospel of Mark; the Desert Life

If you are like me, sometimes life's journey seems to take us to dry and empty places. Instead of metaphorically zooming down I-10 looking forward to stopping at Buc-ee's, we find that we are trudging along a dusty path where both water and companionship is in short supply.

Sometimes, it seems that God leads us into a desert, challenging our assumptions and our comfort. Whether you are currently "in the desert" or not, the Lenten journey is a great time for us to ponder how we can deepen our relationship with God and put our knowledge into action.

During the upcoming Lenten season, we will be exploring the Gospel of Mark. Both our sermon series and our daily video devotionals will be coordinated so we will have discussed the entire book by Easter Sunday.

Mark is one of my favorite Gospel writers because his book is full of action. The Holy Spirit inspired Mark to use the Greek word for "immediately" (euthus) 41 times in his Gospel, far more than any other book in the New Testament. He shows us how Jesus' disciples converted their beliefs into action, even in the midst of the desert.

Our popular Lenten video devotionals are slated to start on Thursday, February 15th. Short videos will be available Monday-Saturday through March 30th, and will feature Pastors Michael Dorn, Paul Dorn, Lonnie Gonzales and Donald Black; Haley Davisson (Trinity's DCE) and Rev. Greg Finke (Trinity's deployed missionary).

Watch your email inbox for a link to each day's video, and allow God to deepen your faith during this important season of the year.

See the following page for a list of readings from the book of Mark that will accompany the daily Lenten devotionals.

I'm so glad to be your Pastor, Pastor Dorn

"Desert Life" Daily Readings

2,		
• February 15Mark 1:1-20	O March 4	
• February 16Mark 1:21-39	O March 5 Mark 7:24-37	Decent
• February 17 Mark 1:40-2:12	O March 6 Mark 8:1-21	Deser
O February 19Mark 2:13-28	O March 7 Mark 8:22-33	1:10
O February 20Mark 3:1-19	O March 8 Mark 8:34-9:13	(ye)
O February 21Mark 3:20-35	O March 9 Mark 9:14-29	
O February 22Mark 4:1-20	• March 11 Mark 9:30-37	• March 21 Mark 13:1-20
• February 23Mark 4:21-34	O March 12 Mark 9:38-50	O March 22 Mark 13:21-37
• February 24 Mark 4:35-5:20	O March 13 Mark 10:1-16	O March 23 Mark 14:1-26
• February 26Mark 5:21-34	O March 14 Mark 10:17-31	• March 25 Mark 14:27-42
O February 27 Mark 5:35-6:6	O March 15 Mark 10:32-52	O March 26 Mark 14:43-65
O February 28 Mark 6:7-13	O March 16 Mark 11:1-25	O March 27 Mark 14:66-15:15
O February 29 Mark 6:14-29	• March 18 Mark 11:27-12:12	O March 28 Mark 15:16-39
O March 1	O March 19 Mark 12:13-34	O March 29 Mark 15:40-47
O March 2	O March 20 Mark 12:35-44	O March 30 Mark 16:1-8
	S March 20 Mark 12.00-44	

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

FEBRUARY 14 Noon and 6:30 PM

HOLY COMMUNION

Bundle of Love Drive

IN SUPPORT OF THE BLUEBLOSSOM PREGNANCY CENTERS

Sponsored by Trinity Youth and LEAH Downtown Academy

BABY ITEMS MAY BE PLACED IN CRIB LOCATED IN THE FOYER SUNDAY, JANUARY 21 - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11



- DIAPERS,
- BABY CLOTHES (NEWBORN - 6 MONTHS),
- MATERNITY CLOTHES,
- WIPES.
- FORMULA.

- BOTTLES, CRIBS,
- BLANKETS,
- BOOKS,
- TOYS.
- STROLLERS.
- CAR SEATS.
- PACK N' PLAYS, AND
- ANYTHING ELSE A NEW MOM MIGHT NEED



FOR MORE INFO ABOUT HOUSTON COALITION FOR LIFE

ORDER ONLINE: AMAZON WISH LIST









LEAH SCHOOLS Downtown Academy

BOARD OF ELDERS - CONTACT INFORMATION

Jim Baccus	iimbaccus@comcast.net	
Mike Gilmore		
Tim Grady	<u>timlgrady@aol.com</u>	
Chris Sonneborn		
Mike Sterling	<u>nasasterling@gmail.com</u>	





Dress in your western wear and join us for fellowship, food, games & dancing! Sign up at Welcome Desk to enter your chili in the cook-off.

For more info contact Roseann at rgamez@trinitydt.org.

Save the Date!

THE LIVING LAST SUPPER

MAUNDY THURSDAY MARCH 28, 2024



Sack Lunch Ministry Update

Trinity's Sack Lunch Ministry's purpose is Jesus' words, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I needed clothes and you clothed me "Matthew 25:34-36.

From January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, Trinity Lutheran Sack Lunch Ministry passed out over 13,514 lunches. This compares with 10,096 given out in 2022. The most lunches ever given happened in 2015 when 18,630 lunches were served.

Along with lunches, we also have dog and cat food available for pets that the homeless have. The pet food is being funded by two donors.

Our congregation has been so generous through the years. Coats, socks, gloves, ear muffs and crochet sleeping mats have been donated to Trinity's Sack Lunch Ministry. In pre-COVID years, many volunteered at the Homeless Christmas Sit Down Dinners and gifts in shoe boxes were passed out to the people who were served. Trinity has a heart for the homeless and downtrodden and we have been so blessed because of your generosity.

On January 28th, a special door offering was taken to support the Sack Lunch Ministry. If you missed the opportunity to support this ministry, click <u>here</u> to donate (select Homeless Ministry fund).

As always, the Sack Lunch Ministry needs extra hands. If you want to volunteer occasionally between 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. weekdays, please contact Rick Berg at 281.455.5413 or Pastor Black at 713.229.2917 or call the church office at 713.224.0684.



Lenten Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries

In Lamb of God, we have God's Son come to earth as the eternal Word, Jesus Christ. Throughout John's Gospel, Jesus is made known to us as both God and Man, full of grace and truth. He has come into the world to seek us out—you and me—to rescue us from the power of evil, and to make us His beloved children forever.

Jesus was born for sacrifice and servanthood. As God's beloved Lamb, He intimately joined our lives in the flesh, compassionately healing, teaching, and loving us as our Good Shepherd. On the cross, He gave His life for our transgressions, and three days later He rose triumphant in victory over sin, death, and the devil.



Daily Devotions from LHM will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others. Printed copies will be available in the foyer, narthex and Gathering Space beginning February 11th or have them delivered right to your inbox, podcast the audio devotional, access them on your mobile device through the FREE app, or listen with Spotify, iHeart Radio, Alexa, or Google Home by going to <u>www.lhm.org/lent</u>. Perfect for personal reflection or to share with family and friends, these Lenten meditations will help prepare you to celebrate the true meaning of the season.

Hey, Trinity Families!

January has been packed full of fun! We began our shareholders fundraiser for youth missions, which you can read more about below!

We are supporting the Bundle of Love Drive that will go through February 11th! It was a blast to find items and sort out the ones you have brought us so far!

February looks forward to several exciting events and several firsts! We will have our first Children's Ministry Service Day on February 18th, in which we will do projects that are age appropriate and



teach our youngest members how to serve the Lord and their community! We will also have our first youth weekend retreat for 7th-12th grade at Carolina Creek, called Winter Retreat. It will be February 23-25 and we have teachers from Lutheran North and South Academy joining us to help with Bible Study and Worship! It will be a wonderful weekend of growth for our student community and many of their friends! Thank you for your continued support! You are a blessing!

Blessings in Jesus' Name,

Haley Davisson, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries

Youth Stock Sale

INVEST IN OUR YOUTH

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.

WHAT CAN \$50 DO?

Have you ever wondered what \$50 can do for summer 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.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

By investing in the Youth of Trinity Downtown during the summer you are advancing the faith formation of students between 7th-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 \$25,300. This is larger than last year for two reasons: first, I have better estimates for expenses and second, I am not subsidizing money from my budget.



Your investment this year will support all costs associated with the summer mission trips for our 7th-12th grade students, to meet our \$25,300 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 group after returning home. Buy 2 shares (\$100) and you are invited to join the Annual Shareholder's Dinner, on July 12, 2024. The Shareholder's 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. There are 3 more levels that you can give at that have awesome perks including partnering in prayer to submitting questions for the students to answer at the Shareholder's Dinner.

HOW TO PURCHASE

You can pay by check (payable to Trinity Lutheran Church, memo line: 2024 Youth Stock Subscription) after services or give directly to Haley Davisson. You may also pay using a credit card at https://www.trinitydt.org/online-giving/.

SHAREHOLDER BENEFITS

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 an Orange shareholder, +
- Shareholder's Dinner.

Silver Shareholder = invest \$250 (5 shares)

- All the perks of being a Bronze shareholder, +
- Specialized bookmark
- 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, +
- Cookie Jar Kit
- Opportunity to pre-submit questions to be asked at the Shareholder's Dinner.

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

- All the perks of being a Gold shareholder, +
- Preferential seating at the Shareholder's Dinner
- Personalized thank you note from Haley Davisson and a Trinity Downtown Student.
- Special dessert during Shareholder's Dinner.

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!

Finance Corner - January 2024

Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together! Psalm 34:3 ESV

The Magnify Capital Campaign officially ending on December 31st, 2023. Your generosity resulted in the campaign exceeding our pledge and giving goal of \$750,000. Through the end of 2023, a total of \$784,588 had been given to the campaign! Gifts to the campaign are still very much appreciated and will be used to offset the Sanctuary Refresh's construction costs that were funded from Trinity's cash reserves. Praise God for His blessings and thank you for your generosity!

As you'll recall, tithes and offerings had been running below our budgeted expectations during almost all of 2023. However, I am thrilled to report that **tithes and offerings for the month of December were \$133,000 higher than our budget, and \$60,000 higher than December 2022! We are grateful for those who contributed extra to help us catch up.** Our congregation's generosity continues to make a real difference in Trinity's ability to impact and reach out to our community, as God works His work among us.

Adding up results for the entire year, our offerings totaled ~\$37,000 less than our annual budget. Our church-related expenses for the year were \$61,000 lower than budget, and we subsidized LEAH's Downtown Academy by absorbing ~\$65,000 of the Education building's expenses such as security, custodial and maintenance costs.

In-person participation in our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services was 946. We also had 479 online participants, so we served a total of 1425 worshippers during Christmas! Praise God for the musicians, Pageant volunteers and other hard-working congregants that make our Christmas services so special!

If you have not yet recorded your 2024 Home Treasury pledge for planned giving for this year, you can find a commitment card as you enter the Sanctuary, or you may use our online pledge form <u>here</u>.

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

December 2023 Sum			
Average (non-Christmas) Worship Attendance	In-person 223	Online 189	Dec. 2022 433
	Adults	Students	Dec. 2022
Avg. Discipleship Hour Attendance	141	67	172
Contributions	Actual	Budgeted	Last Year
December 2023 tithes and offerings	\$371,075	\$237,593	\$311,864
Total 2023 tithes and offerings	\$1,808,503	\$1,845,082	\$1,810,590
	Received	Pledged	Last Year
Magnify Campaign gifts thru 12/31/2023	\$784,588	\$769,191	N/A

Getting ready for a God-filled 2024, Ron Lacy, CFO

Magnify Campaign Update

- The Magnify Campaign officially ended on December 31st. Gifts to the campaign are still appreciated and will be used to offset the Sanctuary Refresh's construction costs that were funded from Trinity's cash reserves.
- Thanks to your generosity, through the end of 2023, **pledges** to the Magnify campaign totaled \$769,191, which exceeded our goal. Actual gifts received totaled \$784,588, which is amost 103% of our \$750,000 goal.
- The 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, both through worship services and other community outreach events such as performances and concerts.



We have three videos that highlight how the funds from the Magnify campaign were used to refresh our Sanctuary. You may view them using these links:

5 minute "looking back" video 1 minute giving opportunity video 1 minute thank you video

Magnify Capital Campaign Team,

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Wind Symphony of Concordia University Chicago in Concert at Trinity - March 2



The Wind Symphony from Concordia University Chicago will perform a concert of sacred and secular music at Trinity Downtown, on Saturday, March 2 at 4 p.m. The concert is part of the ensemble's Spring Tour, March 2-10, taking them to Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri and Illinois. The concert is open to the public, and admission is free.

The concert will include Praise God, All Creatures by Samuel Marquart, Conni Ellisor's Keepers of the House, the March from Holst's First Suite for Band, Alleluia! Laudamus Te by Alfred Reed, Rossano Galante's Sailing with Whales, Pennsylvania Faux Songs by Johan de Meij, San Pelayo by Victoriano Valencia Rincon, Dan Forrest's Shalom, How to Train Your Dragon by John Powell, and Two Sacred Pieces: Pavel Chesnokov's Salvation is Created and O Love, How Deep by Jordan Holliday. Special guest trumpet soloist Christopher O'Hara will be featured in Ballad by R. Christopher Tiechler and Herbert L. Clarke's Carnival of Venice.



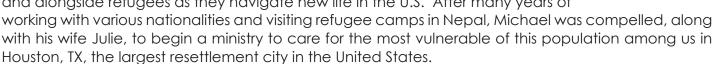
Dr. Richard R. Fischer Director

Under the direction of Dr. Richard R. Fischer, celebrating his 50th year of conducting at Concordia University Chicago, the Wind Symphony has performed in 43 states, Canada, Europe, Asia and South Africa as well as twice at Carnegie Hall. The ensemble has commissioned and premiered numerous wind compositions and produced 16 acclaimed recordings of sacred wind music.

Trinity Ladies Ministries

Mark your calendars, ladies! Our monthly meetings are a special time to connect and share. Join us for our upcoming gathering on February 1st. For more information, feel free to reach out to Trinity Garrett (info at #LinkinBio) or 281.300.5660.

This month our speaker will be Pastor Michael Meissner from Abba's House. Pastor Meissner who has been pastoring churches for 25 years in San Antonio, Colorado Springs, and Cypress, is the founding pastor of LifeBridge Church in Cypress, TX and has an M.Div. from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO. Since his initial work with the Lost Boys of Sudan in Colorado, Michael has been drawn to working with and alongside refugees as they navigate new life in the U.S. After many years of



At Abba's House they seek to provide a season of safety, healing, and stability that propels their guests forward to becoming productive members of society. They seek to meet their physical needs, model basic life skills, and make progress toward dealing with the trauma they have experienced. Most importantly, they seek for them to encounter the love of Jesus through His people and the rhythms of life at Abba's House.

All ladies are welcome to join in the camaraderie and conversation. We will continue with our Bible Study on Tamar and Ruth. Looking forward to seeing you there! Bring a friend!!!

Your sisters in Christ, Sherri Schroeder & Trinity Garrett

Next New Member Class Begins April 7th!

Faith Discovery 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. Room 123

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

2024 GOVERNING BOARD

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

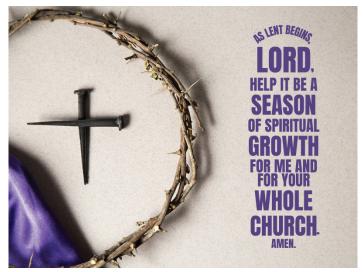
Minutes of the Governing Board meetings are available to our members at the Welcome Center.



How Can We Use the Lenten Season to Deepen Our Relationship with God?

The Lenten season provides a unique opportunity to draw closer to God through self-reflection, prayer, and intentional acts of devotion. Lent, spanning 40 days, mirrors the period Jesus spent fasting in the desert, and it serves as a powerful time for believers to deepen their relationship with God. Here are some meaningful ways to enhance your spiritual journey during this sacred season.

1. Daily Scripture Reflections: Take advantage of Trinity's Lenten video devotionals, and intentionally set aside one minute during your lunch break and as you prepare for bed to meditate on



the topic of each day's video. Consider journaling your reflections, capturing insights, and identifying areas for spiritual growth.

- 2. Fasting and Sacrifice: Lent traditionally involves acts of fasting and sacrifice. While abstaining from certain foods is common, consider extending this practice to other aspects of your life. Consider fasting from social media or listening to the nightly news. Sacrificing time or luxuries can help create space for God and foster a sense of self-discipline.
- 3. Intensify Your Prayer Life: Dedicate a few extra minutes in prayer each morning during Lent. Develop a habit of listening to God in the stillness, seeking His guidance and grace for the journey ahead.
- 4. Random Acts of Kindness: Extend random acts of kindness to those in need, both within and beyond our church community. Volunteering, donating to charities, and helping the less fortunate are ways to tangibly express Christian love and compassion.
- 5. Participate in Lenten Worship: Be diligent in attending Trinity's worship services during this special season. Meditate on each Sunday's Scripture readings.
- 6. Confession and Repentance: Lent is an opportune time for self-examination and repentance. Embrace the cleansing power of repentance as you strive for a renewed and purified spirit.

By incorporating these practices into your spiritual routine, you can foster a deeper relationship with the Lord, allowing the transformative power of the Holy Spirit to shape your faith journey. May this season be a time of profound growth, reflection, and spiritual renewal as you walk the path towards Easter with a heart tuned to God's grace.

If you have feelings of loneliness, experiencing a crisis, facing a challenge or simply going through a tough time, Stephen Ministers are commissioned members of our congregation who have received specialized training to equip them to provide Christ-focused, empathetic, highly confidential care and prayer 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 reach out to Pastor Lonnie Gonzales at <u>lgonzales@trinitydt.org</u> or speak with one of our other pastors.

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 <u>www.trinitydt.org</u>. 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)

SUNDAYS - YOUTH

First Communion Class (5th grade & up) - 10:15-11:15 AM - Meets 2/4, 2/18, 3/3 & 3/17 Foundations 56 (5th-6th grades) - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 207 Confirmation (7th-8th grades) - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 208 High School (7th-12th grades) - 10:15-11:15 AM - Underground

SUNDAYS - ADULT

Discipleship Bible Study - The Whole Story - Creation to Jesus

Led by Group of Members - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 125 - In Person

This Bible study series covers creation through the redemptive story in the Old Testament. It is perfect for people interested in learning a simple and reproducible model to study Scripture in a group setting. The study is sponsored and facilitated by a committed group of members at Trinity Downtown. Participants can come and go throughout the series.

Ephesians

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

Start your new year off right by studying Paul's letter to the Ephesians. In this class, we'll get heavenly glimpses as to how things really are, and get a better understanding of God's plan to unite everyone and everything in Christ. You will renew your hope! Discussion-oriented.

History of Church Controversies

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

The Church is Christ's perfect bride, until you involve people. As soon as Christ left the Earth, that's what happened and over the next 2,000 years we have jumped from one controversy or heresy to the next; dividing ourselves along the way. Each week will be a stand-alone lesson on a controversy starting with the book of Acts and moving towards the present day. Learn from their mistakes not only as a church, but as individuals in our own lives and our own controversies.

Isaiah - The Herald of the Messiah

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

Isaiah is the Old Testament prophet who is quoted more than any other in the New Testament. Many, and probably most of these quotations, point to the birth of Jesus, the Messiah which we celebrate at Christmas. Isaiah's writings go beyond the promise of salvation for his first audience. His words also prophesy the growth of God's church until the second coming of Jesus on Judgment Day. At that time we will see the new heaven and new earth promised by God. Our class is not a



detailed verse by verse study, but rather a look at selected passages that highlight God's promises of our Savior through Isaiah.

Prayer and Praise: Psalms and Hymns

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

Psalms are often quoted by the New Testament writers. The psalms were the prayer and song book of God's people both in Old and New Testament times. Class members will discuss psalms and hymns that have been meaningful to them. We will be looking at what the psalms mean for us now as we pray them. At the same time the class will discuss hymns and songs written in our times. The class will meet each Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Please email Pastor Paul Dorn at <u>pbdorn6@gmail</u>. <u>com</u> if you wish to be part of this study and he will send you a link for the Zoom meeting.

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 Spiritual Life - A Study on 1st Corinthians

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

Paul writes to the Church in Corinth instructing them regarding spiritual life in the context of the local church. The Church is called to live a life empowered by the Spirit of God.

TUESDAYS - ADULTS

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study - LifeLight: Acts, Part II

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.

Young Adult Bible Study

Led by Maddie Meier - 7:15 PM on 1st & 3rd Tuesdays - Virtual via Zoom (Meeting ID: 870 6099 1252, Passcode: 694814)

Young adults are encouraged to join this virtual fellowship hour diving into the Lord's word, celebrating one another's accomplishments, supporting each other through the trials of young adulthood, and praying over one another.

Who is welcome: Age is but a number. This Bible study is geared towards anyone that would consider themself a "young adult". Whether you are a seeker, a new Christian, or a seasoned disciple this space is for you.

WEDNESDAYS - ADULTS

Ephesians

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

This winter Women's Wednesday Night Bible Study will dig into the book of Ephesians. We would love for you to become a part of this small but joyful group.

In Ephesians, the Apostle Paul describes followers of Jesus with words such as as predestined, sealed, made alive, brought near, reconciled, citizens, equipped, mature, one body, and children of light. Then, he describes the tools God graciously gives us to live this life.

Please join us. We meet Wednesday evenings on Zoom from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. and in person the last Wednesday of the month.

Virtual Midweek Spiritual Check-in

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.

My Story

In a world full of darkness, disappointments, and despair, the incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ breaks into our lives in a real and tangible way. This is what we call "My Story". "My Story" is an encounter with the Lord Jesus. A time in our lives when the significance of "God's Story" in Christ breaks into "My Story" and gives us hope in our current circumstance. Through this hope, it gives us meaning and purpose. Our new sense of meaning and purpose gives us a story to share with others.

Pastor Lonnie	MY STORY	
Anxiety.	My	Freedom
Depressión	(1+1)	Beloved
	Awalcn	
	Loved	

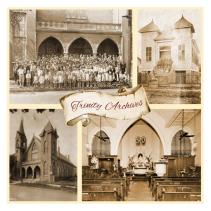
PASTOR LONNIE'S STORY: Can I share my story with you? There was a time in my life when I was overcome by ANXIETY and DEPRESSION because I didn't love myself anymore. Then everything changed when I surrendered and told someone else about my pain. God led me to be open and honest with my pain to another human being and then I was AWAKENED and LOVED so I could learn how to love myself again. Now, I am experiencing a new FREEDOM and I can self-identify as God's BELOVED. I can love myself again so that I can fully love God and others as I love myself.

My story is modeled after the witness of the woman at that well in John, chapter four. Once she encountered Jesus, she went to her hometown and shared her story. You can imagine before she met Jesus, as a woman of several divorces, coming to the well during the heat of the day. She avoids others because of her SHAME and felt like an OUTCAST. Despite her failed relationships and status as a Samaritan woman, Jesus helps her feel NOTICED and LOVED. As a result she felt WORTHY and ACCEPTED again. By encountering Jesus, her life was given meaning and purpose, hope for another day. This hope of hers she could not contain so she went and shared it with her friends.

Maybe you have a story to share like hers. Often, we hear from others that they don't have a story. Well, if you have a time in your life when you experienced pain and your faith in Jesus pulled you through it, this is a legitimate story to tell, and others need to hear your story to help give them strength and hope. If you have a desire to tell your story, let us know and we would be happy to help you tell your story. Simply email Pastor Lonnie Gonzales at <u>Igonzales@trinitydt.org</u>.

Trinity's Archives Collection

Trinity's archives collection has received donation of newspaper articles, candid photographs, vintage Confirmation photographs, wedding service folders, funeral service folders, anniversary programs, vintage *Trinity Times* newspapers, and other interesting photographs and articles that enhance the Archives Collection.



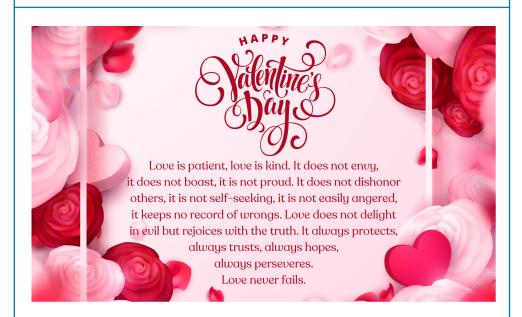
Donors include Marlene Eickenhorst

and Janis Taube. Also thanks to Janis for identifying the subjects on the various photographs.

Trinity's Foyer Display Cabinet

In the past year we have been pleased to display collections of Trinity members that included: portions of Trinity's Archive Collection emphasizing the Magnify Campaign; 4th of July "Eagles" by Jeff and Shawn Dean; Veteran's Day "USA" and "Bethlehem City Scene" by Elizabeth Stoerkel.

All displays are welcome. Contact Ruth Stoerkel or Elizabeth Stoerkel (<u>fws1pub@earthlink.net</u>) to schedule a display or for additional information.



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Article submission deadline is **February 14th** for articles to be published <u>March 1, 2024</u>. Submit articles to <u>pschroeder@trinitydt.org</u>.

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