



Vol. 26, No. 4

April 1, 2024

Holy Week at Trinity Downtown

Trinity Downtown commemorated the events leading to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ at our Holy Week services. Beginning with the beautiful re-enactment of the Last Supper, followed by the moving Good Friday service with the nailing of our sins on the cross and culminating with the Easter Festival services, the messages were inspiring and the music magnificent. Thank you to everyone who had a part in the services. See the pictures from the services below and on the following page.





Confirmation Class of 2024

On Palm Sunday, March 24th, the five young people pictured below confirmed the faith into which they were baptized. We offer our congratulations and pray that God blesses them as they continue their walk with Him.

Gavin Thomas O'Reilly



*The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.*

Psalm 23.1 (ESV)

Jocelyn Paige Rodriguez



*"Be still, and know that I
am God; I will be exalted
among the nations, I will
be exalted in the earth!"*

Psalm 46:10 (ESV)

Shay Frances Sonneborn



*Even youths grow tired
and weary, and young men
stumble and fall; but those
who hope in the Lord will
renew their strength. They
will soar on wings like
eagles; they will run and
not grow weary, they will
walk and not be faint.*

Isaiah 40:30-31 (NIV)

Ava Guiliana Wingate



*Cast your cares on the
Lord and He will sustain
you; He will never let the
righteous be shaken.*

Psalm 55:22 (NIV)

Donovan Christopher Yancey, Jr.



*I have fought the good
fight, I have finished the
race, I have kept the faith.*

2 Timothy 4:7 (NIV)



*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you
and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)*

Nurturing Fellowship: How Christians Can Care for Others

In the heart of every vibrant church community lies a commitment to care for one another. As Christians, we are called to emulate the love and compassion of Christ in our interactions with fellow believers. Caring for others within our church goes beyond mere gestures; it embodies the essence of Christian fellowship and solidarity. Here are some practical ways Christians can engage in caring for one another within their church:

- 1. Prayer Support:** The power of prayer is immeasurable. Christians can actively support one another through prayer by lifting up each other's concerns, burdens, and joys. Prayer provides a network of vital spiritual support during challenging times.
- 2. Personal Connection:** Take the time to build meaningful relationships within our church community. Reach out to newcomers, engage in conversations, and show genuine interest in others' lives. Building personal connections fosters a sense of belonging and creates a supportive environment.
- 3. Active Listening:** Sometimes, all someone needs is a listening ear. Practice active listening by being fully present and attentive when others share their joys, struggles, or concerns. Validate their feelings and offer empathy and understanding without judgment.
- 4. Practical Assistance:** Offer practical assistance to those in need within our church family. Whether it's providing meals for someone who is ill, offering rides to church events, or assisting with household tasks, small acts of service can make a significant impact.
- 5. Encouragement and Affirmation:** Encourage and affirm fellow believers in their faith journey. Send notes of encouragement, share words of affirmation, or simply offer a smile and a kind word. Letting others know that they are valued and appreciated strengthens the bonds of fellowship.
- 6. Inclusivity and Hospitality:** Practice inclusivity and hospitality by welcoming newcomers and ensuring that everyone feels accepted and valued within our church community. Invite others to participate in various church activities and ministries, fostering a sense of belonging for all.
- 7. Forgiveness and Reconciliation:** Follow Jesus' command to practice forgiveness and reconciliation within our church community. Recognize that conflicts and misunderstandings may arise but prioritize reconciliation and restoration of relationships, following the example of Christ's love and forgiveness.



Caring for others within the church is not just a responsibility; it is a privilege and a calling rooted in love. By embodying the principles of compassion, empathy, and support, Christians can create a nurturing environment where every member feels valued, supported, and loved in their faith journey. Let us strive to emulate the love of Christ as we care for one another within our church family.

Are you feeling sad or anxious, facing financial difficulties, health issues 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 Pastor Lonnie at lgonzales@trinitydt.org or reach out to one of our other pastors.

Finance Corner - April 2024

...give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you. Luke 6:38 ESV

Tithes and offerings for the month of February continued January's trend and were \$6,000 over our monthly budget. **Total giving so far in 2024 is over \$10,000 higher than the same time last year!** Our year-to-date operational expenses through February totaled \$1,800 less than budgeted, and almost identical to spending during the same period in 2023. **Thank you SO MUCH for your continued generosity;** it is a blessing to our church and our community as we reach out with the Gospel to our community.

Participation in our traditional worship service continues steady, as does the number of those who worship with us online. **Discipleship Hour attendance in February was 13% higher than last year at this time,** with growth in children, youth and adult classes.

As we reported last month, the work on the Christian Life Building's roof and the replacement of the Gym's HVAC system started in late February. The general contractor suffered a delay in receiving some necessary permits from the City, so completion of the project is now scheduled for mid-April.

It's tax season, so as you review your 2023 contributions from Trinity, please feel free to reach out to me at 713.229.2970 or lacy@trinitydt.org if you have any questions.

Here's a quick summary of "visible results" for February 2024:

| February 2024 Summary | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Average Worship Attendance | In-person | Online | Feb. 2023 |
| | 250 | 165 | 453 |
| Avg. Discipleship Hour Attendance | Adults | Students | Feb. 2023 |
| | 134 | 78 | 188 |
| Contributions | Actual | Budgeted | Last Year |
| | February 2024 tithes and offerings | \$126,382 | \$120,000 |
| | Total 2024 tithes and offerings | \$251,347 | \$225,000 |
| | | | \$119,776 |
| | | | \$241,300 |



He is Risen!
Ron Lacy, CFO

Hey, Families!

Way back in February we had our first youth retreat and the pictures weren't ready for March's *Trinity Today*, so take a peek at all the memories we made!





COMPASSION

Be kind and compassionate to one another,
forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32



As we look back at March, I am overjoyed that we Communed nine students (see page 9) for the first time and we confirmed five students! Take a look at our confirmands on page 3!

We also had our second annual Empty Tomb Party and it was a blast! The kids and families had a fantastic time sharing in the Joy of the Empty Tomb! Jesus is Risen! Alleluia!



April looks forward to an awesome Go Karting Event for our middle school and high school students. It will be filled with go carts, laser tag, arcade games and most importantly Jesus!

Finally, please pray that the Lord provides a summer intern. If you know any college students who would be interested in working with us in youth and children's ministry for the summer please let me know (hdavisson@trinitydt.org)! I have a job description and application I can share with you!

As always, thank you for your continued prayers and support! You are a blessing and I am grateful to be in this community.

Blessings,
Haley Davisson, Director of Youth and Children's Ministry



First Communion

Congratulations to the following students who received their First Communion in March.

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Knox Lee Hartmann | Penelope Elizabeth Weeks |
| Matthew Austin Hill | Vivienne Britt Weeks |
| Luke Andrew Marcus | Donovan Christopher Yancey, Jr. |
| Rhys Aiden Diaz-Nellums | Evelyn Ann Yancey |
| Gavin Scott Patterson | |



Join us after church on April 7 for a celebration sponsored by the Magnify Capital Campaign Team.

We will also be thanking the Texas District Church Extension Fund for their participation in the Gospel.

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 place a check (payable to Trinity Lutheran Church, memo line: 2024 Youth Stock Subscription) in the offering plate 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!



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 (Chair/Elder)

Ross Krueger

Brent Laumen

Cassandra McGarvey
(Vice-Chair)

Marie Munier

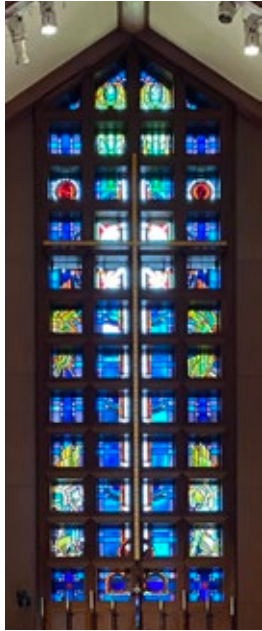
Mary Oliver

Chris Sonneborn (Secretary/
Elder)

Mike Sterling (Elder)

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

Trinity Ladies Ministries - Sanctuary Stained Glass Window Tour



Mark your calendars, ladies! Our monthly meetings are a special time to connect and share. Join us for our upcoming meeting on April 4th at 10:00 a.m. in the Gathering Space. Fellowship time with snacks provided by Gay Shackelford, Marjorie and Sherri Schroeder will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Following our short business meeting, we will have the pleasure of hearing Pastor Black explain the meaning of all the stained glass windows in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited to attend.

For more information, feel free to reach out to Trinity Garrett (info at #LinkinBio) or 281.300.5660.

Membership Report

The following are the changes to membership approved at the March Governing Board meeting.

MEMBERSHIP IN

Transfer

- Jack & Patricia Motl from Immanuel LCMS, Houston, TX

Baptism

- Kathryn Nina Lackey (01/31/2024)

MEMBERSHIP OUT

To Glory

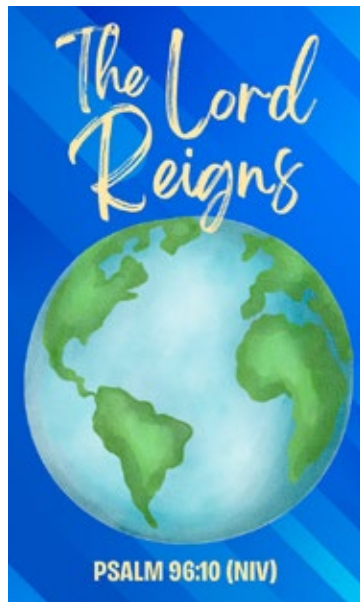
- Bernice Guinn (12/15/2024)
- Wesley Frank Krueger (02/03/2024)
- Wayne Edward Leverkusn (02/10/2024)
- Jacqueline C. Bushman (03/08/2024)



Life Quote - April 28

"It is He who sustains us each and every day. It is He who brings us into the world, and He who draws our earthly lives to a close at the proper time. It is He who was born for us, He who died for us, He who rose for us, and He who reigns on high for us. His is the pattern of our lives."

Deaconess Bethany Stoeber,
Director-at-Large, LFL of Kansas – A
Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •
lutheransforlife.org



BOARD OF ELDERS - CONTACT INFORMATION

| | | |
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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)

SUNDAYS - YOUTH

Foundations 56 (5th-6th grades) - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 207

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.

Faith Discovery

Led by Pastor Michael P. Dorn - 10:15-11:15 AM - In Person

Class for persons interested in joining Trinity Downtown and those wanting a refresh of the Christian faith.

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.

Joshua

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

In the book of Joshua is recorded the history of God fulfilling His promise to His people Israel. It is part of God's plan for the salvation of the world. Joshua is an example of a leader faithful to the Word of the Lord. The book displays God's continuous grace to sinful humanity.

Please email Paul Dorn (pbdorn6@gmail.com) and he will send you his class notes and a link to the class session on Zoom. You will need a computer, laptop, or phone.



Limping with God

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

Limping with God: When we look to the Bible for role models in our daily discipleship, Jacob doesn't come readily to mind. He's a trickster, a liar, and selfish. He also leads a dysfunctional family rife with jealousy and backstabbing. But Jacob is also Israel, the namesake of the Old Testament community of God, chosen and blessed. As such, this sinner-saint, who limps along with the Lord, burdened by weakness and beset by problems, is the mirror image of all of us who follow Jesus. Discussion-oriented.

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 of Mark

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

The Gospel of Mark is the shortest of the four Gospels and is thought to be the first one written. It tells the story of Jesus Christ from the foretelling of John the Baptist through Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and ascension into heaven. There is less detail than in the gospels of Matthew, Luke or John and it has a feeling of urgency in telling the good news. The word "immediately" appears many times. Join us either in person at Trinity or remotely through Zoom as Mark introduces Jesus to the world as both God and Man and the salvation for all 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.

Young Adult Bible Study - Book of James

Led by Class Members - 10:15-11:15 AM - Gathering Space - In Person

Young adults, please join us as we study the book of James using the 'Sword Method'. Each week we will read a chapter ahead of time and use the 'Sword Method' on Sunday to better understand what the passage says to do, what not to do, who man is, who God is, and lastly how we take these things into the week. We look forward to seeing you there!

TUESDAYS - ADULTS

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study - LifeLight: Ruth & Esther

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.

WEDNESDAYS - ADULTS

Ephesians

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

This spring, the Women's Wednesday Night Bible Study will continue to 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 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.





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.



Sue Clark, a florist in our congregation, will design two arrangements for \$75. Simply make a donation to the "Flowers for Sanctuary" fund at <https://www.trinitydt.org/online-giving/> or submit a check with "Flowers" in the memo line. You may also use your own florist if you prefer. You may take your flowers home with you after the service.

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 Stefanie Bowman at 713.229.2950.

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Article submission deadline is **April 15th** for articles to be published May 1, 2024.
 Submit articles to pschroeder@trinitydt.org.

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