



# Trinity Lutheran Church Newsletter

March 2021

Contact:  
E: [tlc118@mymts.net](mailto:tlc118@mymts.net)  
P: 204-735-2503  
[tlcstarbuck.com](http://tlcstarbuck.com)

Address: 43 River Ave  
Starbuck MB  
R0G 2P0

## A message from Pastor Debra:

“The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want.” Psalm 23

I had always known that tradition recognized that David wrote this Psalm while he was tending his flocks in the Judean Wilderness. In my mind I had not considered this wilderness as being a brown, barren, desert. I had imagined David writing this psalm in a lush green pasture beside a still blue water. I imagined the writing of this psalm would take place in a landscape which is often depicted on inspirational bookmarks and pictures where these encouraging words are written. This however was not the case.

In 2009 I had the opportunity to go to Israel. While I was there, we went to the place where David is believed to have written this psalm. The Judean wilderness is a brown, barren grassless, treeless space. In truth it is filled with secret, hungry life that would give anything to challenge the skills of a shepherd boy and feast on some unsuspecting lamb.

As I sat on a hill in the heat of the desert, overlooking the vastness of that land, I was struck by the boy David's incredible faith. David lived in a world filled with danger and hardship, he faced that danger and hardship on a daily basis, yet he believed in a God who would care for him and help him care for his sheep. This psalm is an incredible statement of faith.

David saw not the world that was; he saw a world that could be. In this world; in this new world revealed to him by God, there was no want or need. In this world streams would one day flow in desert places and grass would grow on barren hills. In this place an individual could walk safely in dangerous regions and know they would not be harmed.

This heavenly world is one that I freely imagine as a reality for us on those days when I hear of individuals who are recipients of, or have participated in unsuspected, random acts of selfless kindness or bravery. It is one that I passionately pray for to COME on those days when the pain and suffering of this current world threatens to suck the life out of those whom it victimizes.

On Thursday March 4, I received a letter from our Synodical Bishop, Bishop Jason Zinko, reminding us that it was a year ago on March 4, 2020, that our Bishops first sent out a letter regarding the, then mysterious but concerning CARONA virus. It was just a couple of weeks later on March 17, that we got word to stop all in person worship.

We are almost at our one-year anniversary. It has been quite a year. As I look back, I look back with gratitude to the members of our congregation for your faithful perseverance. I look back with gratitude to all of the members of our church council, with special thanks to our previous council chairperson Rob Livingston. None of us really knew what was happening and we all needed to learn to do things differently.

It was after Easter last year before we had our first ZOOM service. We have been able to use this technology consistently since that time and expand upon it. All of you have also been faithful, stewards of your time, talents and treasures. With God's help we have been able not only to get by, but to do well.

We never know what challenge life will hand to us. As far as the CARONA pandemic goes, we still do not have a clear vision of the future that is ahead of us. With this said, we can continue to move forward in trust. God has been with us, is with us and will be with us. God remains beside and within us, in all things, and through all things. My prayer is that you will all feel God's presence with you. As we turn our eyes with Christ to Jerusalem, may we do so remembering our Lord's great sacrifice of love for us. It is because of his enduring the scandal of the cross, that we all, even in this time, can know the joy of the resurrection.

May God be with us all as we continue as companions on this 2021 Lenten journey.

A message from the Editor:

If you ever have any announcements or other content that you would like included in the newsletter, please email me at [briannahoude@gmail.com](mailto:briannahoude@gmail.com) by the last week of the month to be included in the next month's newsletter.

Thank you!

-Brianna

## Sunday and Mid-Week Readings - March 2021:

March 7, 2021  
First Reading  
Psalm  
Second Reading  
Gospel Reading

March 10, 2021  
First Reading  
Second Reading

March 14, 2021  
First Reading  
Psalm  
Second Reading  
Gospel Reading

March 17, 2021  
First Reading  
Second Reading

March 21, 2021  
First Reading  
Psalm  
Second Reading  
Gospel Reading

March 24, 2021  
First Reading  
Second Reading

March 28, 2021  
First Reading  
Psalm  
Second Reading  
Gospel Reading

Lent 3  
Exodus 20:1-17  
Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 1:18-25  
John 2:13-22

Mid-Week Lent 3  
Deuteronomy 10:12-22  
Luke 6:27-38

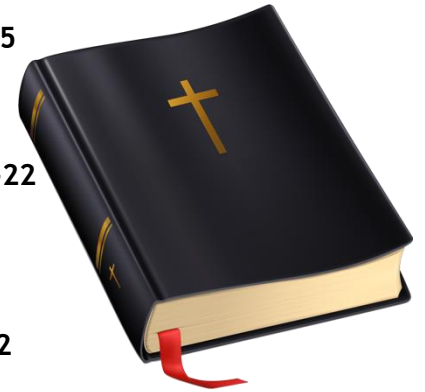
Lent 4  
Numbers 21:4-9  
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
Ephesians 2:1-10  
John 3:14-21

Mid-Week Lent 4  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
John 14:15-31

Lent 5  
Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Psalm 51:1-12  
Hebrews 5:5-10  
John 12:20-33

Mid-Week Lent 5  
Deuteronomy 7:7-13  
1 John 4:7-21

Palm Sunday  
Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Mark 11:1-11



## Zoom Services:



Please join us on Sunday mornings for 10:00 from our sanctuary Worship via ZOOM. We give thanks to God for the technology that allows us to continue to meet for Worship even when we cannot be together in person

## Trinity Lutheran Church Web Page:

We encourage you to look at our Trinity web page.

([www.tlcstarbuck.com](http://www.tlcstarbuck.com))

The web page is updated regularly. Please check it out.

---

## Lent Bible Study 2021:

Please join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 via Zoom for our Lenten Bible Study. The theme of our Bible study this year is, "Created for Community". Each week we will study a particular reading from the Gospel of Mark related to community. The topics of each week are:

**Week 3 - March 10, 2021 - In community with our neighbor**

Mark 2:1-12 *A community comes together to bring a neighbor to Jesus*

**Week 4 - March 17, 2021- In community with those on the margins**

Mark 5:1-20 *Jesus crosses barriers to attend to those on the margins*

**Week 5 - March 24, 2021- In community with Christ**

Mark 10:32-45 *Jesus reminds us that we are walking the way of the cross*

### 2021 Mid-week Lenten worship service via Zoom

Please join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm via Zoom for our Lenten Mid-week Worship Service. The theme of our Services this year is "Perfect Love Casts out Fear". It is a half hour in your week to pause and consider how much God loves you. In Christ none of us need ever be afraid.

We are following an Evening Prayer format.



---

## Welcome to our New Web Master:

We are pleased to introduce Clayton Wilchow as our new Web Master. While our webpage will be a work in progress, please note that it is updated a few times a week.

If you are a musician or interested in reading lessons on a Sunday morning please continue to sign up on our web site. Just click **Worship Assistance** then press the blue link when the page comes up and sign in. If you have any difficulty doing this, please call Pastor Debra at the church. Stay tuned for a new look!



---

## A note from our treasurer:

Donations were slightly down in January, somewhat unsurprisingly given the spectacular December we had. Expenses are increasing with some advance payments for construction materials for the roof. Note that this does not include the transfer from the memorial reserve (50% of the roof cost or \$17,500 at current estimates) so there actually is no deficit at this point.

	Jan - Jan 21	YTD Budget
Total Income	\$6,537	\$9,892
Total Expense	\$14,316	\$12,494
Net Income	-\$7,778	-\$2,602



**If the stars can shine in  
the darkness, so can  
YOU!**

---

## St. Patrick's Day - March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021:

The Celtic cross is a symbol of both culture and faith. The true origins are unknown but there are many theories and legends.

One Christian legend says that the first Celtic cross was formed by St Patrick while bringing Christianity to the Druids. The Druids used to worship a large circular stone. St Patrick, on seeing the significance of this stone, drew a large cross through the middle of it in order to bless it.

From this act, the two cultures combined to form the Celtic cross. The cross represents Christianity, and the circle is the Celtic representation of eternity, no beginning and no end.



## 2021 World Day of Prayer:

It is a global ecumenical movement which brings Christians of many traditions together to observe a common day of prayer each year. Through preparation and participation in the worship service, individuals learn how our sisters and brothers of other countries, languages and cultures understand the Biblical passages in their context. We can hear their concerns and needs and can join in solidarity with them as we pray with and for them. In this way, it is possible to enrich our Christian faith as it grows deeper and broader in an international, ecumenical expression.

The motto of the World Day of Prayer movement is *Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action*. Through participation in a World Day of Prayer, we affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence on the world.

The World Day of Prayer service has been an important ministry for women in our Starbuck and surrounding area for many years. In past years, women received the World Day of Prayer service in the fall, and then gathered to plan, host, and share coffee and conversation following the service, **typically on the first Friday in March.**

This year due to COVID the world day of prayer service across our country will take place online. If you would like more information about this please contact, Pastor Debra

### The World Day of Prayer Logo

The symbol for World Day of Prayer was developed by the women of Ireland and adopted as the international logo in 1982. Its design is made up of arrows converging from the four points of the compass, persons kneeling in prayer, the Celtic cross, and the circle, representing the world and our unity through all our diversity.



**Don't forget!**

**March 14, 2021**



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA  
**MANITOBA/NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO SYNOD**

*Empowered by God, shepherding the church, serving the world.*

THE 2021 MNO Synod Convention will take place from April 23, 2021 - April 24, 2021. This year's convention will be online.

---

## The Urban:

I hope you are all doing well. It's hard to believe that this pandemic has been going on for nearly a year. I pray that the end is in sight and we can all hang in there!

In the meantime, we can still be God's hands and feet in the world with our lunch bags at the Urban. Thank you in advance for your generosity and the way you always come through to fill up those bags.

-Debbie Ammeter-Siple

Here is the link for the volunteer signup sheet:

<https://volunteersignup.org/RM8CC>



---

## Luther Village:

**REGISTRATION 2021! #SeeyouatLV**



Registration for everything Luther Village has to offer - youth camps, retreats, family camp, cabin/campground bookings, etc. is now available online!

**NOW HIRING SUMMER STAFF**

Looking for an amazing summer job?

We are now accepting online applications for our 2021 Spring, Summer and Fall staff positions! Whether you want to make delicious treats in the kitchen, lead families and youth through campfire songs, or help with maintaining the beauty of Luther Village - there is a position that may be perfect for you!

Complete the online application and submit your cover letter and resume today!

**Application deadline is March 25th, 2021**



---

## Attention Trinity Youth!

Come and Join us Online for a *Crock-A-Doodle Fun Night*

*When - Sunday March 14 at 7:00 pm*

*Where - wherever you are*

*Why - to get together and have Fun!*

**So, COME COME COME!**



This month, in keeping with Lent we will be doing a pottery project. We will be purchasing tiles with brushes and paints for each of you. This is from a pottery place on Kenaston in Winnipeg. They are called 'smile tile kits'. \$2.00 from each kit will go to support Canadian Mental Health.

You will each be able to choose three primary colours for your tile. Please Contact Pastor Debra by Sunday March 7, 2021.

---

## The Prayer of Prodigal Sons and Daughters:

And so we must begin again, we of the damaged bodies and assaulted minds. Starting from scratch with the rubble of our lives and picking up the dust of dreams once dreamt. And we stand there, naked in our vulnerability proud of starting over, fighting back, but full of weak humility at the awesomeness of the task.

We, without a future, safe, defined, delivered, now salute you God, knowing that nothing is safe, secure, inviolable except you, and even that eludes our minds at times. And we wonder about you as we love you and our anger is as strong as our pain, our grief is deep as oceans, and our need as great as mountains.

So we take our first few steps forward into the abyss of the future. We would pray for courage to go to places for the first time and just be there, courage to become what we have not been before and accept it, and bravery to look deep within our souls to find new ways.

We did not want it easy God, but we did not contemplate that it would be quite this hard, this long, this lonely.

So, if we are turned inside out and upside down we pray that you will keep faith with us and we with you, holding our hands as we weep, giving us strength to continue and showing us beacons along the way to become new. We are not fighting you, God, even if it feels like it, but we need your help and company as we struggle on, fighting back, and starting over.

**-Anonymous**



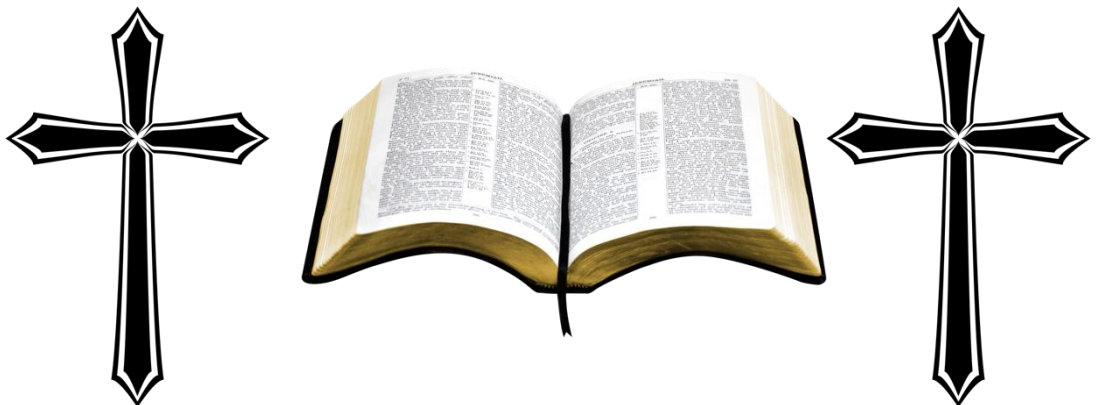
---

## Centering Prayer:

Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, prayer in which we experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. This method of prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship.

Centering Prayer is not meant to replace other kinds of prayer. Rather, it adds depth of meaning to all prayer and facilitates the movement from more active modes of prayer – verbal, mental or affective prayer – into a receptive prayer of resting in God. Centering Prayer emphasizes prayer as a personal relationship with God and as a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Him.

The source of Centering Prayer, as in all methods leading to contemplative prayer, is the Indwelling Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The focus of Centering Prayer is the deepening of our relationship with the living Christ. The effects of Centering Prayer are ecclesial, as the prayer tends to build communities of faith and bond the members together in mutual friendship and love.



### THE GUIDELINES

1. Choose a sacred word as the symbol of your intention to consent to God's presence and action within
2. Sitting comfortably and with eyes closed, settle briefly and silently introduce the sacred word as the symbol of your consent to God's presence and action within
3. When you become aware of thoughts, return ever so gently to the sacred word
4. At the end of the prayer period, remain in silence with eyes closed for a couple of minutes.



# Diaconal Sunday

February 28, 2021

The last Sunday of February each year is designated as Diaconal Sunday. This year Diaconal Sunday was held on February 28. Diaconal Sunday is a day in the life of our ELCIC that celebrates the witness expressed through service (diakonia). Through our baptism all Christians are called to share God's word and to serve our neighbours in Christ's name. It is also a day to recognize and give thanks to God for all of those who serve in official calls as deacons in our church.

Serving our neighbours is an essential element of spiritual renewal, of life in the church and of sharing the gospel. Internationally, the Greek word *diakonia* is used to discuss and encourage mission expressed through compassionate justice, service, advocacy and development. Along with the "Theologies and Dialogue" and "Holistic Mission and Relationships," "Diakonia" is one of the priorities of the Lutheran World Federation. Today we pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire and renew witness expressed through this service.

Diaconal Ministers are authorized by the ELCIC for a public Ministry of Word and Service. This includes skilled and faithful service to marginalized persons, and a deep commitment to equipping all the baptized for spirited discipleship. Today we give thanks for the ELCIC roster of Diaconal ministers and for the service and leadership they offer.

The image of Jesus washing the disciple's feet (*John 13*) is an example of how Jesus modelled a life of service. His command to "*love your enemies*" calls us to show active concern for all who are in need.

We give thanks for the many faithful saints throughout the ages who have taken to heart your call to follow the example Jesus gave us for living in the power of God's love.

### **—Prayer by Deacon Brigitte McKenzie**

Merciful God we give thanks for the unfailing love and the grace that we have received through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We give thanks for the new life we have received through our baptism enabling us to live with confidence in the knowledge that we are your beloved people. We are set free to be active co-creators with you in bringing heaven to earth through the sharing of your extravagant love which we have received. Help and guide us to be a missional people, to love our neighbours, through our words and actions for the sake of the world. We give thanks for those who feel called to serve you in word and service as diaconal ministers whose commitment to serving you is a visible witness of your love through their lives. We ask that you would continue to reveal to us fresh and life-giving ways in which we may serve your purposes of bringing about peace and Justice and shalom to all creation. Help us to love as you love. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.