

Trinity Connections

To Know Christ. To Share Christ.

June 1,

Pastor's Message

Welcome back! It is so good to be able to say that. As I sit down to write this, I am still basking in the warm glow from worshipping with all of you – in person – on Pentecost. What a gift that was! These past 15 months have been long of feeling like we were living in exile. For many, this time has been a long period of loneliness. Connecting online may have helped some but many of us lived with a feeling of being scattered and fragmented, dislocated and a longing for community.

I am sure this must have been a feeling that the ancient Israelites experienced. The Israelites had escaped slavery in Egypt and eventually become a nation, a people united. However, this doesn't last. They are conquered and sent away to live in exile. One would think this to be a bleak time in their history as Jerusalem is destroyed, the people deported, the end of the rule of David's line. Yet history shows that despite these struggles, it was a time that was transformative for the people of Israel. They come to recognize that God has not been defeated. Without a king, Israel remembers once again Yahweh has been and will always be their king. They were transformed by their experience in exile. When they returned home, they did not return to what had previously been. Everything was different.

As we begin to emerge from our time in exile, we should not be so quick to rush back to what was before. I want to invite you to reflect on your time. There are many things for us to lament as well as many things to celebrate. We can lament the lives that have been lost, for the time that we were not able to spend with loved ones, for the jobs that are no more, for the dreams that have seemingly vanished. At the same time, we can celebrate the new ways that we have found to do ministry, the new people we can touch with our work online and the ways that our ministry reach has been extended, the new insights that we have gained.

And so, as we emerge from this time of exile, let us prayerfully go forward filled with the Holy Spirit into a new day for Trinity.

Pastor Jodi Golden-Lund

A Fond Farewell

As many of you know by now, I have accepted a full-time job at a local law office. My last day at TLC will be this Friday, June 4th. I wanted to say good-bye to you all myself. This church hired me five and a half years ago, right after my career attempt at teaching. I was angry, bitter and hurt by my failure, but I found a home here at Trinity Lutheran Church. You all took me in and made me feel at home right away. This church had literally become my sanctuary, and so it scares me to leave the nest. However, most of you also know how much I have struggled over the past 5 ½ years financially, and I finally have the opportunity to stop living on the edge. I hope you will all be happy for me as I begin the next exciting chapter of my life.

I can't thank you all enough for the love and acceptance you have shown this little Jewish girl from Brooklyn. The friendships that I have gained through this church are invaluable, and I hope we remain friends. You can always find me on Facebook, and now that I am no longer your office manager, feel free to "friend me". I would love to stay in touch with everyone. You've witnessed the birth of my grandson, the marriage of my child, and the change within myself. I can't imagine losing your love and support.

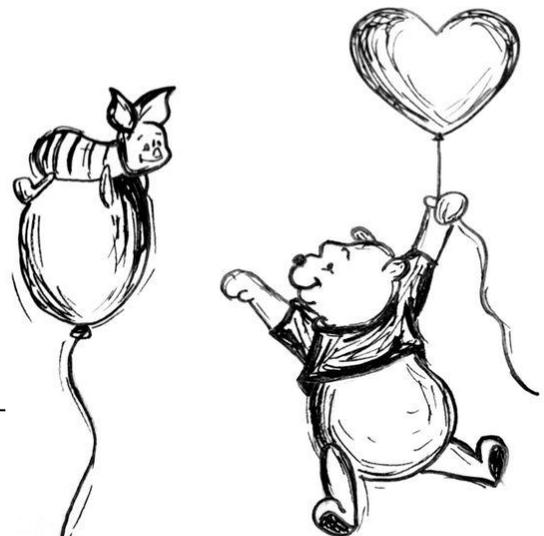
Please keep me in your prayers, since I know your prayers work miracles. I will need them. I thank the Council, past and present, for putting up with a lot from me, forgiving a lot, and giving a lot. They're amazing women!

Finally, everyone in the church is a wonderful example of true Christian love. That's rare these days since the world is such a mess. You all have made it less so. The love and acceptance found in the hearts of the members of TLC are more valuable than any money can buy.

THANK YOU and I LOVE YOU ALL!

Lisa Duncan

PS: I will be attending worship on Sunday, June 6th to come say good-bye in person.



How lucky am I to have
something that makes saying
goodbye so hard.

- Winnie the Pooh

ADULT VACATION BIBLE STUDY

"Seeking and Sharing the Kingdom of God"

Sunday-Wednesday, July 25-28, 2021, 3:00-6:30pm

Our adult VBS will have it all: Worship, Bible "Study and Play", Crafts, Music, Food, and Fellowship

Please plan on joining us for this week of fun and worship!

Bibles, Books and Beyond

Sunday Morning Bible Study (9:45-10:45 in the Fellowship Hall)

The Epistles of John: 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John

Trinity's Sunday morning Bible study is back in session! Please join us for a study of the Epistles of John—three of the most intriguing and mysterious letters in the New Testament. These three short documents open a window into the life of the early church. The communities to whom these letters are addressed have recently experienced conflict and division in their own ranks over their ways of seeing Jesus. The author writes to clarify the gospel and to reaffirm Jesus as the incarnation of God's love. All are welcome. Come when you can—every week or once in a blue moon.

An Invitation to Participate in a New Type of Bible Study

The Book of Job: Seeking Understanding, Insight, and Healing (Coming in August or September)

The Book of Job holds a special place in the Bible as a book that directly addresses the problem of God's relationship to pain and suffering. It has been read and studied by Christians and non-Christians, by believers and non-believers, for centuries—and now it's our turn. This particular study will be designed to help all participants, both religious and secular, question and reflect upon Job as a book of wisdom.

By using strategies used to read the classics of literature—while always keeping in mind the different experiences of readers who read the Bible as Scripture and those who do not—we can read the Bible together in ways that are personally meaningful and increase biblical literacy. All participants will have the opportunity to discover what scholars, theologians, and readers through the ages have said about Job; to respond to the book with honesty and insight; and to listen with respect to the responses and insight of others.

My hope is to offer two versions of the class—one in person and one via Zoom. If you are interested in either class, please let me know in the next several weeks, while I am still exploring options for the days and the times of the classes. Also, if you know of others who might be interested, I will be completing a class invitation/description soon, and I would appreciate your help in passing that invitation on to them.

Lectionary Bible Study with Pastor Jodi

Pastor Jodi leads a Bible study via Zoom each Monday evening at 6:30. Participants from both Trinity and Foothill have an opportunity, using a *lectio divina* approach, to respond to, and interact with, next Sunday's scripture lesson. If you would like to participate, send an email to Pastor Jodi (pastorjodigl@gmail.com) and she will send you the Zoom link. The more participants, the more we learn and grow together!

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

New Prayer Concerns

Christy Gardner (Sharps) - for peace of mind as she prepares for her RN boards.

Continuing Prayer Concern

Rose Johnson - for healing from a possible pinched nerve in her back and severe pain

Nancy Forster (June Mowles) - for healing and a good outcome from kidney cancer surgery

Colleen Wickersham (Carol Baggett) - for peace and healing of serious health problems

Peggy Holt - for healing and comfort due to health problems

Julie Elston - for continued health concerns

Muriel Josten - for continued healing after knee replacement

Brian Nelson (Scott Nelson) - for continuing health concerns

La Vida Nueva UMC - for God to prosper our partnership in the gospel

The Sierra-Pacific Synod - for wisdom and a spirit of true fellowship in our shared ministries

JUNE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Art Cardell	June 3
Alondra Silva-Bucio	June 11
Loise Warnke	June 13
Vern Miller	June 27
Jay & Louise Warnke	June 4
Mike & Susan Firestone	June 24
Don & Kay Anderson	June 30

June Mowles is STILL in need of 10-20 Quaker oatmeal boxes (empty) for a craft they are doing where she lives. If you are able to help her out, please give her a call at (559) 784-3223.

USING VANCO FOR OFFERINGS

Many people are preferring to use online payments with their computers or their smart phones instead of paying with a check.

We are making a service available for online giving to the church, even if you don't use online banking.

If you want to do your giving online, you may make payments with your credit/debit card or with information from your checking account through a company many churches use called VANCO.

To use Vanco online (from a computer), go to: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YJ0M>

To use the Vanco app on your phone download the VANCO app called "VANCO Mobile Faith Engagement."

Once you are on the website or have downloaded the app, find our church by searching for Trinity Lutheran Church of Porterville. The rest is self-explanatory. They will ask for address information in order that you can get accurate tax documents.

There is a small fee the church will pay for the service (1% for ACH bank information, 2.75% for debit/credit cards). You will be given the choice to increase your giving by that amount in order to cover the service charges. This is only if you feel led to do so.

You are still welcome to support the church in the regular way you are accustomed to. We are just providing this service to those who prefer it.