



**The Mustard Seed
Trinity Lutheran Church
Monthly Newsletter
To Know Christ, to Share Christ
February 1, 2022**

Matthew 17:20

“If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, nothing will be impossible to you.”

*Pastors
Message*

As I sit to write this, I am thinking ahead to Lent, this time of preparation, this time in the wilderness, this time of reflection. You as a congregation have been in a bit of an extended Lent as you have been journeying through this transition process as well as living through a global pandemic. I know that this has been a long time of seemingly wandering through the wilderness. I want to acknowledge this and to thank you for your faithfulness on this journey.

We remember the Israelites and their long journey through the wilderness. They left Egypt and they were filled with anticipation for what was to come. Of course, as we know the hope that they had been filled with wanes and the grumbling begins. And as they journeyed and as they grumbled God was with them each step of the way. God provided for them and guided them even as they resisted. They did eventually make it to the promised land – it just wasn't on their timeline. It was always on God's.

I know that during this time of transition, things probably have not gone according to the timelines that many of us would have set, myself included. And yet, we know that God has been present each step of the way. We have done a lot of work during this transition time. There has been an incredible amount of growth and new life is emerging.

I thank each one of you for your commitment in this process. The fruit of this work will come to bear as you as a congregation continue to walk with faith and confidence into a new day in the life of this congregation.

All of this reminds me of a passage from the prophet Jeremiah, "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." This is really the journey that we are each on. May we each continue with the blessings of God that abound.

Pastor Jodi Golden-Lund

Trinity's Annual Congregational Meeting—February 6, 2022

Meeting will be held following Worship

In preparation for this year's congregational meeting, the council wants to alert you to a proposed change in the structure of the council as well as introduce you the nominated slate of incoming council candidates. At our February 6th Annual Meeting the congregation will be asked to vote on this recommended change in council structure prior to voting on the nominated slate of new council members.

Trinity Council Recommendation Regarding Structure of the Council

After careful consideration the Trinity Council has decided to recommend two changes in the congregation's bylaws regarding the structure and make-up of the council:

1. Increase the number of members on council by adding up to three at-large seats. *(This change makes recruitment easier and brings more members into the planning and decision-making process of the congregation.)*
2. Reduce the number of officers on the council by making the financial secretary position an appointed position. *(This appears to be the norm in other small congregations. The Treasurer is the legally required officer. The person appointed to this position would not be required to attend council meetings.)*

Official changes in the bylaws must ultimately be made through ELCA's Constitution Update and Revision process. Trinity is currently in the process of updating our Constitution and Bylaws—but that process has not yet reached the point where we can submit the updated and revised documents for a congregational vote. That vote will take place sometime in the next year.

The council does not think it is wise to delay these two changes in bylaws for another year. These changes are needed so that the council can most effectively implement Trinity's mission and complete the planning and work needed for a successful transition to a "settled pastor." Moreover, the nominating committee had great success in finding persons willing to serve on a council with the new structure.

It is worth noting that the current structure of the council was approved by a congregational vote but never passed through the official update and revision process. Therefore, it seems consistent with past practice and reasonable for the congregation to vote on these two changes prior to the vote on the completed revised documents.

Proposed 2022 Trinity Lutheran Council

Those up for election in 2022 are in bold.

President: **Muriel Josten**

Vice-President: Ann Marie Wagstaff

Secretary: **Juanita Baldwin**

Treasurer: Jan McKinley

At Large Members:

Kathryn Benander

Ray Cauwet

Tammy Hensley

Finally, we want to express our gratitude to those who will be leaving council (Julie McIntosh, Alondra Silva-Bucio, and Judy Trimble) to those who will be joining council, and to all volunteers and members of the staff who have supported the work, ministry, and mission of Trinity in 2021.

Bibles, Books, and Beyond

Sunday Morning Bible Study

"Who Do They Say I Am?"

This nine-week class will reflect on the signs, wonders, and revelations recounted in the early chapters of Matthew and Luke prior to the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Mary, Joseph, and a host of others are the first to ponder and sometimes to proclaim

answers to the question “Who do they say I am?” How might what they see, hear, and say deepen our own response to this key question? We meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45. All are invited and drop-ins are welcome.

January 2—Joseph
January 9—the Magi
January 16—Zechariah and Elizabeth
January 23—Mary
January 30—Mary and Elizabeth
February 6—The Shepherds
February 13—Simeon
February 20—Anna
February 27—In the Temple with the boy Jesus

On March 6th we will begin our Lenten Bible Study, “Journey to Jerusalem.” This series will follow the role of the city of Jerusalem through Scripture from its first mention to the role it plays in the life of Jesus, the birth of the church, and the coming of the New Jerusalem.

Announcements

Giving Envelopes

There are still giving envelopes available for next year. They are in sets of twelve. If you are giving cash, please put your number on them to assist with providing you information for your tax deduction. If you do not have a number, we can assign one. Thank you!

Visitation

We are receiving many requests for visitation and would love to provide this to those service for those who need it. Please call or email the office if you are able to help out.

Worship Assistants

We need Worship Assistants! The sign-up sheets for February and March are on the Bulletin Board to the left of the women’s restroom. We need volunteers for all positions. So far, no one has signed up for February or March. Please sign up for any position. We appreciate and thank those who have been helping.

We also need volunteers to train for altar care/communion. Training will be provided.

We are in need of additional volunteers to help run the iPad and multimedia during our live streaming services! **Without help it is difficult to continue to provide the live**

stream of worship. Please call the office or let Jan G know if you are able to help.
Thank You!

February Birthdays

Marvin Sharp 5th, Doug McIntosh 5th, Brian Nelson 8th , Ann Marie Wagstaff 9th , Diane Kavern 21st , DeeJay Blaylock 26th



February Anniversaries

Richard and Helen Zenz 13th

Prayer List

New Prayer Concerns

For Carol Bentz, who had surgery and is home recuperating. We give thanks to God that the surgeon was able to remove all of the cancer.

For LN, friend of Judy Trimble, who is in the hospital with Covid and pneumonia. Prayers for effective treatment and relief from fear and anxiety. To feel God's arms around her. (Judy Trimble)

For Chris Mason (Oval Brown's nephew), who is hospitalized with Covid and Pneumonia (Julie McIntosh)

Continuing Prayer Concerns

For Tim Olson's mother, Terry Prandini who was hospitalized with Covid while visiting Memphis.

For Kevin and Kaitlyn's baby, who was born 4 weeks early, weighing 4 lbs, 4 oz. Prayers of thanks! (Judi Trimble)

Prayers in hope that my new orthopedist will see fit to give me surgery as soon as possible. My appointment is on Feb 3rd. (Juanita Baldwin)

For Karin Wiseman and her family. Linn passed away unexpectedly on Monday December 20th.

For Jordan as she goes through chemotherapy that it may bring complete healing. (Muriel Josten)

For tiny Isla and Eleanor as they continue to struggle and fight for their lives at Childrens Hospital. We praise you for the healing miracles in their lives already (Muriel Josten)

For Ernie Rodriguez who is recovering from surgery. For his complete healing, adjustment to post-surgery conditions, patience, peace and God's Blessings for Ernie and his family as they travel together down the road to recuperation. (Carolyn Sharp)

For Marga Schaefer who has returned home from the Rehab Center and needs prayers for continued healing and a smooth transition to normal living after 4 months of recuperation in medical settings (Carolyn Sharp)

Peggy Holt - for healing and comfort due to health problems and continued healing after surgery

Julie Elston - for continued health concerns

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

Foothill Presbyterian - for God's blessing on our partnership with their community

Those unable to worship with us:

June Mowles - Sierra Hills Phyllis Rengstorf - Kaweah Manor, Visalia

Marga Schaefer Rose Johnson - Sierra Hills