



## The Mustard Seed

### Trinity Lutheran Church Monthly Newsletter

#### To Know Christ, to Share Christ

#### April 1, 2022

**Matthew 17:20**

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

### *Pastor's Message*

Several years ago, when I was serving another congregation as their associate pastor, I was given the task of developing a program to connect members with a place to serve that they felt called to, one that used their gifts. To begin this work, I would sit down with members after they had completed a spiritual gift inventory. We would then have a conversation about what was discovered there and what excited them in the church and in life. I loved these conversations and seeing how God was working in the lives of those who sat before me.

These conversations were a great opportunity to talk in depth about life and faith. As we talk, we would discover the place in the life of the congregation that best suited this person. New ministries were launched from this work and other ministries were revived as fresh faces and ideas came to serve in them. It was a beautiful thing to see.

As I look around Trinity, I see many of you serving in ways that use the gifts that God has given you. I see the joy that you possess from serving God through this place. When things need to be done, there is someone who will step up to do the work of this congregation. This is a gift to see and be a part of.

Your church council and I are reading a book together called *Healthy Churches, Faithful Pastors*. In this book, the author gives ten principles for a vibrant church community. These principles include purpose, accountability, and covenant. The one area where we all agreed was in the area of mutual ministry. Mutual ministry means that we all share in the work of ministry together. It is not simply done by the pastor and a few people but instead is seen as the work of all.

This makes me think of that work that I did earlier in my career when I helped church members to connect with an area of ministry that made them feel alive. I know that

many of you are serving in areas that bring you joy and that is wonderful to see. It is a gift and privilege for me to serve alongside each of you.

Now some of you may be interested in serving in new or different ways that you have before. Maybe you aren't sure how to go about doing that. Maybe you feel a nudge to move into a new area of serving but you aren't sure what that is or what it looks like. If that sounds like you, I would love to have a conversation with you and to explore the possibilities that are waiting for you and for the whole congregation.

Pastor Jodi Golden-Lund

## **Bibles, Books, and Beyond**

### Sunday Morning Bible Study—"Who Do You Say I Am? (From Easter to Pentecost)

Beginning the week after Easter, the Sunday Morning Bible Study will begin Part 3 of our series, "Who Do You Say I Am?" This third installment of our series will reflect on key scenes between Easter and Pentecost in which followers of Jesus encounter the Resurrected Christ, explore the meaning the Resurrection, and receive the mission given to his followers during this unique and crucial turning point in human history. We will also look carefully at how the way in which these events are described in the Bible helps those who are familiar with the Bible to answer for ourselves the question, "Who Do You Say I Am?"

Please join us for this important journey from the Easter to Pentecost. All are welcome.

April 24—The Resurrection (Synoptic Gospels)

May 1—The Resurrection/Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene (Gospel of John)

May 8—Jesus Appears to Thomas (Gospel of John)

May 15—Jesus Appears to His Disciples by the Sea of Galilee (Gospel of John)

May 22— On the Road to Emmaus (Luke)

May 29—Ascension and Commission (Matthew and Luke/Acts)

June 5—Pentecost (Acts)

*So what do we do in the Sunday morning Bible class?* We open in prayer. Volunteers take turns reading that morning's passage. Ann Marie and others provide background information about the historical and literary context of the passage. Sometimes we look at maps and consider geography. Sometimes we trace the connections of the passage to other parts of the Bible. We ask questions and explore the passage together. We try to follow where the Spirit is leading us. And we close in prayer. Then we leave for worship enriched by our time together.

## TLC Council Update for Meeting Held on Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>

- Pastor Jodi led a discussion of Part One of *Healthy Churches/Faithful Pastors*. Part one introduces the importance of expectations and the ten principles for healthy congregations:
  - Purpose: Strive to be the Church
  - Ordination: Respect for the “Set Apart”
  - Covenant: A Life-Giving Relationship
  - Mutual Ministry: We All Serve Together
  - Resurrection: Practice Resurrection
  - Eustress: Keeping the Inevitable Tension in Tune
  - Safety: Don’t Take It For Granted
    - Maturity: Cultivating Honesty, Trust, and Self-Knowledge
    - Accountability: The Sacrament of Failure
    - Boundaries: The Difference between Bad and Good, Good and GreatIn April the council will discuss Part 2: “What Healthy Congregations Expect From Faithful Pastors.”
- Muriel is still seeking volunteers for the Audit Committee and Pastor Jodi is in communication with Jill Stokes regarding the Administrative Task Force.
- Received a report from the Constitution and Bylaw Task Force and discussed the importance of the weekly attendance cards in establishing voting membership. The task force recommended to council that the attendance cards be revised and that the significance of completing them be explained to the congregation.
- Received a report from Andy on security issues—particularly regarding trespassing, and use of the shed that is in a blind spot on our property. He explained to council how to access the video recorder that he has installed and provided recommendations for what action to take if we see a trespasser in real time.
- Discussed anticipated water restrictions due to drought conditions. Although no decision was made, we anticipate that we will be letting the lawns go brown this summer.
- Discussed a communication that Muriel received from Carolyn Sharp regarding requests from the Evangelism Team. Based on that discussion the council decided to restore receiving the offering to the worship service, permit food outside on Sunday mornings, and to revise our mask policy from “requires” to “strongly requests” the wearing of masks.
- Decided that Muriel would provide a council update each month at the worship service following a council meeting.
- The Council and the Call Team will be meeting via Zoom with Pastor Manda (Assistant to the Bishop) on April 6<sup>th</sup>.
- The next Council meeting will be on Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 (light dinner at 5:30)

## Worship News

First off, thank you to those folks who faithfully step up every Sunday to assist with varying worship tasks, whether that be reader, usher, serving communion, song leading, clean up after service, or working behind the scenes running the iPad camera for live streaming the service, running multi-media changing the slides, or preparing and cleaning up communion for the day. Your efforts are greatly appreciated as it takes a team of people! However, that being said, there is still a great need for additional folks to become familiar to serve in these roles, as one person cannot do all these tasks alone. I have put together a pictorial for the use of the iPad during the service, so that we can continue to stream the service live. I am currently working on a pictorial for the multi-media computer which will illustrate turning on the computer, logging on to "tlcmedia," and finding SongShowPlus, which is the program we use during worship. It will also include using the projector remote and the sound system. I am willing to meet with anyone who would be willing to learn to run multimedia, or the iPad, so that we have backup people that can serve in these roles, so that our worship can continue to run smoothly. Please prayerfully consider the opportunity to step out of your comfort zone, and serve! Thank you!

Jan Gibson

## Announcements



### **Flowers for Easter Sunday**

**We are in need of flowers for Easter. If you would like to bring flowers from home or purchase flowers, please bring them to the church by Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. We will also need volunteers to help decorate the cross at 10:00 am on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.**

**We also need Volunteers to clear the altar for Good Friday. Volunteers will meet at the church at 10:00am on Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.**

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



**Maundy Thursday Service will be held on Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm Foothill Presbyterian.**

**Good Friday Service will be held at Trinity on Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.**

**Easter Sunday Service will be at 11:00am at Trinity.**



We are so grateful for the 20+ years that Alice Christianson served Trinity as our organist. We wish her nothing but the best in her new home. We will miss you, Alice!



### **Little Library Ribbon-Cutting on Palm Sunday**

Please join us immediately after worship on Palm Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> for the official ribbon cutting and dedication of Trinity's Little Library. We will be joined by a representative of Porterville Little Library Junction—the group that initiated the campaign to install 100 Little Libraries in our community after the tragic fire that burned down our city library and cost the lives of two firefighters. The aim of the initiative is to promote literacy

and to commemorate Fire Captain Raymond Figueroa and Firefighter Patrick Jones, the two firefighters who died in the fire. In addition to the ribbon cutting, Pastor Jodi will dedicate Trinity's Library, and Juanita Baldwin will read a poem she wrote in the days following the fire. The community will be invited to join us, and refreshments will be served.



### **Visitation**

We are receiving many requests for visitation and would love to provide this service 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 April and May are on the Bulletin Board to the left of the women's restroom. We need volunteers for all positions. We still have openings for April and May. 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! What a great opportunity to learn a new skill! **Without help it is difficult to continue to provide the live stream of worship. Jan will provide excellent training!**

### **April Birthdays**



Scott Nelson 7<sup>th</sup>  
Rose Johnson 15<sup>th</sup>

### **April Anniversaries**

No April Anniversaries

## Prayer List

### New Prayer Concerns

Please bring healing and comfort to my dear friend who is suffering from shingles and her husband who passed away suddenly after being airlifted to Bakersfield heart hospital. (Muriel Josten)

For Art and Karen Cardell as Art transitions to additional care needs.

For Carol Baggett who is having eye surgery on April 1<sup>st</sup> (Carolyn Sharp)

For Jan McKinley for healing after surgery for skin cancer removal (Carolyn Sharp)

For peace and the hope of resurrection for Tim Halmeier and family as they mourn the loss of his mother (Carolyn Sharp)

### Continued Prayer Concerns

For Ernie Rodriguez who tore ligaments in his knee - he is scheduled for an MRI the week and will see an orthopedic surgeon in Fresno. (Carolyn Sharp)

For Julie Elston for her relief from pain and to guide her doctors to discover why she continues to have difficulty breathing and resolve those issues (Muriel Josten)

For World Peace (Juanita Baldwin)

For Joy, for rebirth and renewal (Andy Buzzelli)

For the family and friends of Sherman Gibson (brother-in-law) in the hope of resurrection (Jan Gibson)

For Sheila Gibson (sister-in-law) for complete healing and recovery from hip surgery (Jan Gibson)

For Tim Olson who was recently diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, for adjustment to this new health challenge (Nancy Chadwell)

Peggy Holt - for continued healing

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 Rengsdorf - Kaweah Manor, Visalia

Rose Johnson - Sierra Hills