Those two little letters make a difference. As we gather for the holiest days in our Church year we acknowledge that Jesus rose from the dead, 2,000 years ago, in another land, but we also acknowledge another reality. That there is a resurrection now, in us, in the midst of life hard places, dead ends, and unknown futures.

On Easter we celebrate Christ’s resurrection and our own. I’m not just talking about the resurrection when our physical bodies have died and we are raised with the saints on the last day, but the little resurrections that God makes possible. The resurrections, new life, and growth that show us that Christ is alive. Here. Now. In our lives. That there is always hope and a future because of Christ’s resurrection. New life and new chances given to us now through Christ’s life, death, and resurrection.

Nothing is the same. Nothing will be the same. Nothing that is not of God has to stay the same. As Brian A. Wren put it in the words of his hymn, “Christ is alive! Let Christians Sing”

Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing

1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky. Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

2 Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, but saving, healing, here and now, and touching ev’ry place and time.

3 In ev’ry insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide, Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.

4 Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call, and find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age, till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936
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United in Christ, Pastor Jeanette Bidne

Global
Southeastern Minnesota
ELCA Synod Assembly will be May 4-5, 2018, at the Verizon Center in Mankato. (In the past, Synod Assembly has been held in Rochester.) Sue Olson and Kevin Benson will be the voting members from our congregation.

The Friday Night Banquet ($35) is open to anyone interested in learning more about our Global Partners in Tanzania, Colombia and South Sudan. Contact Pastor Jeanette or Donna (church office 526-3463) about registration information. Deadline for Banquet reservation is April 13.
FAITH RAISING IS “BOILING” OVER AT TRINITY!!
This Spring we encourage you to join us in FAITH raising at Trinity for new boilers to keep Trinity warm place for ministry to happen. The boilers at Trinity are over 20 years old and need to be replaced.

The estimated cost to replace the boilers is $106,200. This would include: 2 Boilers, removal and disposal of old boilers, pumps, wiring, computer controls, and air handler controls. To keep us warm for the 2018-19 cold winter months, we need to have boilers installed this summer. Our 5-week challenge will start on April 22, 2018!

Has Trinity been a warm place for you and your family to grow in faith and fellowship?
Then Trinity invites you to thoughtfully pray about how you can help us with “Keeping Trinity a Warm Place to Gather”.

Thanks be to God for all we have received and for all that you have given!

The Stewardship Committee: Renee Beattie, Lori Maher, Marty Sawyer, Tasha Walker Pastor Jeanette Bidne

GLAD YOU ASKED!
Why did we use a projector screen during Lent and where did the With One Voice hymnals go?

During Lent we explored a few different things in our sanctuary space. For my doctorate preaching series we used a screen and projector to allow us to project words and questions on the wall for people to see. This allowed us to use less paper during Lent and be able to change the content of the slides in quick fashion based on those who took surveys relating to our Lenten topic. If you attended Lenten services, I am curious how that was for you? Were the slides helpful? Were they distracting? Would you be open to our services incorporating visuals in this way again? Please share your feedback with me and the Worship and Music committee. We may use the projection system again soon to project clips, art, or words if such things help share the message of the day.

You may have also noticed, we removed the With One Voice hymnals and placed them in storage in the library. The blue hymnals were removed from the pews making space for children’s Bibles for our younger ones in worship. Many of the With One Voice hymnals were bent or torn and we are able to print most of this hymnal directly in our bulletin with a worship resource computer program we have in the office. Our red hymnal, the Evangelical Lutheran Worship also includes much of the blue hymnals contents.

Change. It’s sometime hard to adjust or even try new things. It can be scary. We like what we know. What we’ve done before works doesn’t it? Here at Trinity, part of our mission statement includes the word welcome. How do we welcome people who learn in a variety of ways? How do we welcome younger members and invite them to participate? How do we welcome folks whose hands are not steady enough to hold a hymnal anymore or turn those thin pages? Where do we shift, adjust, change and grow so that we can keep sharing the Good News of Christ among us in new ways, something we have been doing for 125 years? I am reminded, as we discuss change in the church that - back in the day - church organs were the “new instrument” and “Amazing Grace” was once a new hymn that people had to stumble through to learn.

Within our Christian Education Committee there are plans in the works to make our worship space friendlier for youngsters. Our Worship and Music Committee is not only taking a look at what is in our pews but how we display devotions and information for young and old alike. Our Property Committee is aware that we have funds to explore updating and streamlining our technology, like screens and the recording of services for those unable to make it to services, but we do not know what we have available in terms of human power to organize it or run it. These are all things to be explored, new ideas to talk about on the horizon. They take time. They create change. Yet these ideas may make someone feel more welcome or help someone learn that God loves them. If that is the case, they are worth a bit of conversation and if we see fit, worth having a bit of change.

Pastor Jeanette
Fair Stand Supper
Held in the Trinity Lutheran Church Gathering Place (dining hall). This year’s menu will include roast beef, mashed potatoes, potato salad, brownie and ice cream, plus beverages.
All are welcome to enjoy good food and fellowship – indoors -- on April 10th!
For take-out or pick-up orders, please call 526-5863 between 3:00-6:00 p.m.
Deliveries will be made between 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
Proceeds go to the mission projects of the Trinity Lutheran Church Women.

Quilt and Kit Blessing
Sunday, April 15, you will come to church and notice beautiful quilts draped over the pews and a large group of Personal Care Kits, Baby Care Kits, and School Kits. Pastor Jeanette will offer a blessing for all those who will receive these gifts. Some of the quilts will go to Lutheran Social Services for their distribution to refugees and immigrants new to Minnesota, Camp Noah for children who have survived trauma, and homeless people. The other quilts and kits will go to Lutheran World Relief for their distribution to people in need all over the world. Please feel free to sit in the pews with draped quilts.
Thank you! TLCW Stewardship and all the quilters

Happy Easter!
Last year when we first started talking about a long-range plan for Trinity, we discussed the need for a two-part plan. One part will focus on how we want to keep improving, updating, and utilizing the TLC building and property. The second part has more of a social focus emphasizing what we want TLC to be known for and described as in the next five years.
To date, the Council has focused largely on the social part of the long-range plan. We want to continue what we are currently doing to establish new programs and events that help us work towards our long-range goal. In order to determine how to get there, we needed to decide where we wanted to go. Pastor Jeanette challenged each of us to list three words that we wanted the Trinity Community to strive to be. The Council ultimately chose Welcoming, Serving, and Connected/Involved. Fittingly, these are an intricate part of the TLC mission statement: “As God’s people, we are nurtured by word and sacrament to welcome, empower, and serve others”.
This is not implying that TLC is not currently welcoming, serving, or connected. Instead, the goal is to continue to live our Mission Statement and build upon what TLC has become in the last 125+ years.
This is a season of fresh starts and new beginnings. I hope we can all take time to think about what we can do to help TLC continue to grow and adapt to a changing society so we can be Welcoming, Serving, and Connected to each other and the communities we live in.

Take Care, Nate Eitzmann
TLC Council President

The Trumpet Blast article above talks about planning for the future. At the same time, several of our Christian Education programs are ending for this school term: April 25 – last class for Release Time for this term
April 25 – Confirmation Fellowship night and last class for this school term.

Sunday School students will sing during the April 29th worship (10:45 a.m.). Sunday School classes will continue through May 13th.

May 6 Worship at 8:30 and 10:45 led by Senior Choir and Handbells

Would your family be willing to usher at a Wednesday 6:30 p.m. service this summer? Contact the church office to sign-up!
Prepare to celebrate Bold Women’s Day 2018

Bold Women’s Day celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Some women are bold in their unceasing prayers. Other women are bold in their service to those in need. Other women are bold in their service to those in need. Still other women are bold in their advocacy or through their hospitality.

Whether we live out our bold story of faith in the workplace, family home or community, our faith compels us to make a difference in the lives of others. It’s all about living out our baptismal call, about being a disciple of Christ.

Would you start thinking about a bold women in your life? This might be your mother or grandmother, another relative or a friend, or someone you have read about. Would you be willing to share about this bold woman of faith at our TLCW meeting? If you wish, write it down so you can read it. Or write it down and someone else will read it for you. Thank you for thinking about doing this.

Marlene Hanson
TLCW Co-President

March Council Highlights

Trinity Council met on Mar 13. We have begun reading and discussing More Beautiful than Before by Steve Leder. This book deals with understanding our use of our faith and God’s grace during the tough times in our lives.

Financial reports were reviewed. Committee reports were discussed. God’s Work. Our Hands set April 9th to pack BUC bags. WAM has placed Children’s Bibles in the pew racks. A ‘pray station’ (not play station) for young children will be set up in the southeast corner near the entrance to the sanctuary, including a sensory table.

There was much discussion discerning three main words to guide us in our five-year planning: welcome, serve and connect.

Our Mission goals for 2018 will be the $10,000 Hunger challenge, domestic violence awareness, and God’s Work. Our Hands projects. Also discussed a back-up plan for pulpit supply for unexpected circumstances.

A fair stand usage committee is being formed.

Receiving new members was rescheduled to March 25 due to weather. There is a need for more Eucharist ministers. If you are interested, contact Pastor Jeanette.

Complete copy of minutes is available on the display rack outside the office.

Listed below are birthdays of members in the church active data base. If there is an addition or correction, please call the church office (526-3463).

April 1 – Sidney Blair, Alec Huber, Karl Kampf

May 6 – Senior Choir and the Handbell Choir will lead both 8:30 and 10:45 worship services.
THIRD Sunday Hunger Offering

After discussion at Council, it was decided to encourage our congregation to ‘meet or beat’ the 2018 goal of gifting $10,000 to Hunger. As of March 25th, you have given the following:

$712 – World Hunger
829 – 3rd Sunday Noisy Offering
185 – Faribault Co. Food Shelf
150 – BUC Bags
20 – Bread for the World
1896

What a great start to this challenge!

The next Third Sunday Noisy Offering will be April 15 when the children help collect your donations in the noisy buckets!

Church Office Hours are Monday – Friday 8:30 – 5:00

(507) 526-3463
General Church e-mail Trinity@bevcomm.net
Website: Betrinity.com

Pastor Jeanette J Bidne
Prjbidne.betrinity@gmail.com

Kim Jacobson, Youth Director
Kimmykimmyj@gmail.com

Donna Perryman,
Office Administrator

If you would like to receive your Trumpet newsletter electronically, just send Donna an email at trinity@bevcomm.net.

Men’s Breakfast with Bishop Delzer – Saturday, April 21 at Cabela’s in Owatonna (9:00 – 11:00 a.m.) $10/person.

Guest speaker is Al Batt. Al is a storyteller, humorist and bird watcher. Contact Bill Redman 525-2996 about car-pooling!

The Worship, Art and Music Committee has purchased two children's Bibles that have been placed in the pew racks. The two Bibles are A Child’s First Bible by Kenneth Taylor ($8), an easy reader, and The Children of God Story Bible by Desmond Tutu ($10).

When you make a donation for this project, a book plate will be placed in the front of one of the Bibles in honor of or in memory of your loved one. Contact Lisa Kittleson or Rachel Roverud with information for the name plate. You can also donate in the church office during the week.

The Education Committee is selling Cedar Inn Punch Cards for $10 each to raise money to help students go to summer camp. With each card you have ten $1 punches to pay for purchases at the Cedar Inn this season. They make great gifts or stick one in your own wallet. So help a camper and fill your tummy with delicious eats from the Cedar Inn.

May 20 – High School Senior Recognition Sunday
Worship at 9:30 a.m., only
Reception for our 2018 graduates will follow in the Gathering Place
All are welcome!

Habitat for Humanity Friday Night Live! April 13 at 7:00 p.m.
Held at the Blue Earth Area High School
After a long hiatus, the Friday Night Live! Fundraiser is again being planned for Habitat for Humanity. The event will begin with a spaghetti supper at 5:30 p.m. Entertainment will begin at 7:00 p.m. “SonGQuesT”, a gospel Barbershop Quartet (made up of members from Kiester, Fairmont, Ceylon, and Yankton, South Dakota) are the featured musical entertainment. There will also be Silent Auction items. Free will donation (suggested $10 per adult).
Each month our synod faith formation group offers a networking workshop. It’s always so fun to go and hear people’s ideas and share resources. I always leave encouraged and inspired.

February’s workshop was held @ Our Saviors in Austin and was titled “Engaging Families in Worship.” The presenter talked about “busy bags” and how we can make the sanctuary more inviting for young families. We were all asked the question…..”is your worship space inviting to a family of a preschooler?”

Most of us there collectively nodded “no”, with a little chuckle. We all decided we could do better. I brought the ideas from the workshop to the Education committee and they are very excited to get to work making our space more inviting for families with children, and offering opportunities for them to be more engaged in worship.

With the trend we see of more things that pull families away from worship, we hope to inspire families to feel a pull back into worship.

This does not mean that we will have a bouncy house and a ball pit…… but there will be some exciting, inviting changes……..stay tuned…..

Kimberly Jacobson, Children/Youth and Family Ministries  507-525-0747   Kimmykimmyj@gmail.com

April 29
Kids Sing in 10:45 Worship

Looking ahead:
Last day of Sunday School will be May 13
Senior Recognition Sunday: May 20 -- 9:30 worship service, reception to follow

SUMMER BIBLE SCHOOL
Spring has sprung, and summer is following close behind!!
Hooray! We have chosen the week of July 17th to have summer Bible School for K-6th graders. More information will be sent home with students from Release time and Sunday School. Forms can also be picked up in the office.

There will be a few new changes this year….
We will be reducing the cost from $25 to $10 to make it more affordable. That will include the noon meal so kids don’t have to worry about packing a lunch.

In order to make this happen we need:
People who would be willing to purchase and prepare the food
A Thrivent Action Team has been applied for to help fund the meals.

(If this is something you would like to do, please speak to me. Thank you in advance for your consideration!)

April 1
Serving from 7:30-10:00
On the menu:
Caramel French toast,
Scrambled eggs, sausages,
berries and whip cream,
juice and coffee

Proceeds to help fund the trip to Houston in 2018

Housing for Camp Staff
We are in need of housing for our camp staff from Okoboji. If your house is available from July 16-19th and you would love to host, please let me know.

Would you like to see more family-oriented/inter-generational events and activities held at Trinity? At the present time I am collecting names of those interested and plan to provide a time to come and share ideas. Please let me know if this is something you feel you would like to be a part of. Thank you!