

»» NEWSLETTER ««

THE TRINITARIAN

All are welcome, all are loved

»» SPRING IS SPRINGING



The spring rains and warm weather have the courtyard flowers in bloom. Spring has brought renewed life at Trinity and like any other home, spring also brings at time for cleansing and decluttering. The Spring Scrubbing is scheduled for 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 4. Volunteers are always welcome - sign up in the narthex (or just show up). The pastor is bringing Timbits.

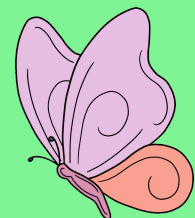
WORSHIP SCHEDULE

MAY 12 - MUSIC SUNDAY

THE TRINITY BAND AND CHOIR WILL HELP LEAD THE CONGREGATION IN SONG AS PART OF THE MOTHER'S DAY SERVICE. AS WELL, TRINITY MUSICIANS AND SINGERS WILL PROVIDE LITURGICAL MUSIC DURING PORTIONS OF THE SERVICE, SUCH AS THE OFFERING AND COMMUNION.

JUNE 16 - HEALING & BELONGING SERVICE

THIS IS AN AFFIRMATION WORSHIP SERVICE TO MARK PRIDE MONTH. THE SERVICE IS INTENDED TO RECOGNIZE THE PAST WOUNDS CAUSED BY THE GREATER CHURCH ON THE 2SLGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY AND TO FOSTER HEALING AND BELONGING WITH THE COMMUNITY. ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP ADAM SNOOK IS SCHEDULED TO PREACH AND ASSIST AT THE SERVICE. A POTLUCK FOLLOWS THE SERVICE.



»»» COUNCIL

SHARE YOUR GIFTS, SIGN ON TO HELP

By **Dagmar Raulin**

Council chair

We are well into April, having celebrated the Resurrection from the Dead of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.

Continuing the Lenten theme of humility, selflessness and service to others, all the while joyful in Jesus' Easter glory, let us serve our community, our neighbourhood and all those in need.

Seriously consider joining and serving on one or two of the active committees at Trinity. Besides the Outreach Committee, the Witness Committee and Mutual Ministry, there is also the Altar Guild, which is responsible for setting the communion table on the altar every week.

If you are a newbie and don't know how yet, you'll learn PDQ and it's not difficult at all. Speak to me or to Carol Lavery, if you are drawn to serving in this group.

Apart from these committees another consideration may be for the Property Committee, headed by Al Heyden-Linden.

Spring is a sure sign of Property Work getting into full swing.

Please approach Al or myself to find out how you or someone you know can help out.

Selfless service through our Music Ministry is done not only by Trinity's Choir, but also in addition, from time to time, by University of Windsor music faculty students.

These students and musically gifted guests help enhance Trinity's ever-expanding music program.

Consider joining the choir, as they lead the congregation in song, accompanied by organist Anne Drouillard.

Should you have ideas and suggestions to broaden our Music Ministry, please share your thought with Pastor Chris or me.

Trinity needs all of us, to be of service, humble and selfless, shining as a light to others.

»»» PASTOR'S PEN

SPRING, VINES, BRANCHES AND LOVE

The cross and tomb are behind us.

We are in the midst of the Easter Season ... Pentecost and the flames of discipleship loom before us.

We are in a time re-affirmation and new life. Spring is the season of new growth ... renewed life ... and a time when love is most assuredly seen and felt in the greenery and aromas of the outdoors.

I continually think of the words from Isaiah:

"Behold, I am doing a new thing."

Spring, it seems, is a time for new things.

Interestingly, it was about this time last year when I contacted the bishop's office for a copy of Trinity's congregational profile and we began to consider the congregation and Windsor as a potential new home.

Of course, there was more research done during the weeks after the profile arrived in my inbox. There were phone calls to other clergy and to the synod officials, as well as some online research.

And, after all this was done, there was a lot of discussion in the house before I informed the synod that I was available for a new call.

Donna and I were ready to do a new thing.

During the call interview in the parlour, I was told that Trinity was also ready to do a new thing, as well. The congregation was ready to change and move on from traditions that add nothing to the worship or that are not life-affirming or that were exclusive rather than inclusive in nature.

So, now, months later, we're doing new things.

Congregations across the Eastern Synod and in other denominations across Canada are struggling.

Some are closing, others are selling their building or property to keep the lights on, still others are redeveloping portions of their buildings, and others are working toward leaving a legacy behind when they close their doors.

BUT there are others that are seeing an influx of new people - those who are securing their ministries' future by doing new things - reaching out to new communities and recognizing what no longer works and then putting things in place that do work ... things that hold more promise than than holding on to the past.

The leadership at these congregations recognize that their pasts offer nothing but memories.

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Easter Meal



Breakfast returns to Trinity



The people in the kitchen were kept hopping on Easter morning as the traditional breakfast returned. There were pancakes, sausages and bacon aplenty for those who came early for the Easter service.



>>> GIFT CARDS

SPECIAL OFFER

Buy two gift cards (see below) and get a \$10 Dollarama Gift Card for only \$10!!!

Only while supplies last!!

These are the Gift Cards available:

Card	Value
Zehrs / No Frills	\$25
Zehrs / No Frills	\$50
Zehrs / No Frills	\$100
Metro / Food Basics	\$25
Metro / Food Basics	\$50
Metro / Food Basics	\$100
Sobey's / Freshco	\$25
Sobey's / Freshco	\$50
McDonald's	\$25
Shoppers	\$25
Tim Hortons	\$15
Tim Hortons	\$25
Starbucks	\$25
Canadian Tire	\$25
Indigo / Chapters	\$25
Dollarama	\$10
Dollarama	\$25
Giant Tiger	\$25
Walmart	\$25
Winners	\$25
Petro Canada	\$50

>>> FINANCE

MINISTRY UPDATE

Family Assist- Thank you to all those that made a directed donation to the Family Assist Program - our deficit is now down to only \$135.

GST/HST Rebate for 2023 - We received a rebate of \$4,036.21

GST/HST Rebate for 2022 - It was discovered that the rebate for January-June 2022 was not submitted to CRA. This submission was completed and we received a rebate of \$550.73

Some other items:

1. Gift cards - we have a brand new stock of cards in!! (keep the same list)
2. Outreach - Clothing Give Away will be held on Friday June 7 and Saturday June 8. The sub-committee of Dena, Donna and Judith will need your help to organize the clothes and man the tables for the public. A sign up sheet will be out soon.
3. Outreach - Pridefest planning is under way. The three day event will be on August 9, 10 & 11. Trinity will have a vendor table at Lansberry Park for the event. More to come.
4. Outreach - We are planning our first dinner since Covid. More to come!!

Bob Swiatoschik,
Treasurer

**Send in your news,
photos and recipes.**

>>> WORSHIP HELPERS NEEDED

We're on the lookout for people to assist with Sunday services. We can use readers, ushers, liturgical assistants, counters and fellowship hosts and hostesses. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board next to the church office.

OUTREACH

CLOTHING WELCOME FOR SPRING GIVEAWAY

The Outreach Committee will be holding the Spring Clothing Drive on Friday, June 7, and Saturday, June 8.

We are looking for donations of women's, men's and children's spring and summer clothing.

If you are spring cleaning and cleaning out closets, please consider donating your unwanted items to our clothing drive.

Items can be brought to the Fellowship Hall.

We can use help manning the tables on those two days, also.

Please stay tuned for a sign-up sheet to sign up for shifts for those days. If you are free and can help out, we would love to see you.

Thanks so much! God bless.

Trinity Outreach Committee

DID YOU KNOW?

Congregational Council is in the midst of establishing or formalizing a variety of policies, guidelines and definitions for the congregation's ministry efforts and operations. The efforts strive to ensure consistency and inclusion remain the earmarks of all Trinity does in the community and in the building. It also seeks to have information regarding Trinity outreach and inreach efforts on file in the church office.

MUSICIANS' SCHEDULE

April 28 - Esther Yang, guitar, keyboard
 May 5 - Sam Fedele, piano, organ
 May 26 - Esther Yang
 June 2 - Sam Fedele
 June 16 - Esther Yang

NEED THE PASTOR?

Pastor Chris can be reached via cellphone.

His number is 519-818-9205

WITNESS COMMITTEE

Following the ACM, Congregational Council has voted to create three committees.

One of these new bodies is the Witness Committee. This committee - like the Outreach Committee - formalizes functions that are already in place at Trinity. It also provides a means for better oversight by the congregational council.

The Witness Committee serves as a type of

event-planning body - it oversees the kitchen and, to a large extent, the Fellowship Hall.

The Witness Committee works with other committees and with members to ensure that there is consistency in how congregational events - such as planning special celebrations (birthdays, anniversaries, etc.) - in the Fellowship Hall are handled.

The committee also provides support for some Outreach efforts such as the Christmas Bazaar when needed.



Juice boxes, cans and pasta cover the narthex table. Our food ministry is expanding its reach by bringing juice boxes and other donations to Street Help Homeless Shelter (they're in constant need of juice boxes for the children the shelter's kitchen feeds). We are also collecting granola bars and fruit-rollup type snacks or fruit cups for packs for the children at the women's shelter.

»»» OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Outreach Committee - like the Witness Committee - formalizes functions that are already in place at Trinity. It also provides a means for better oversight by the congregational council over church ministry in the community.

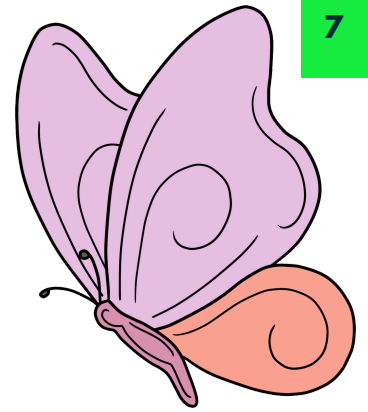
The Outreach Committee, along with Congregational Council and the Pastor, will guide Trinity's ministry efforts in and to the community. It's current members are Dena Peiffer, Judith Gignac, Debbie Powell, Rachel Lauren, Paige Woytta, Donna Krejlgaard, and Bob Swiatoschikm, (council liaison).

The committee recommends and direct areas where our presence and efforts are needed. This would ensure our ministry efforts would be consistent and our resources are efficiently used and create opportunities for more members of the Trinity family to give voice to the issues and needs they witness in the community.

The committee is a means to increase the number of voices providing input into our ministries and in the decision-making process. This will help ensure that our ministries remain effective, relevant and address areas and issues that are important to younger members of the community. It also ensures that the workload is spread among a number of people rather than borne by a handful.

Trinity's current ministries, such as the clothing giveaway, the Christmas Bazaar and Food Bank assistance, and future efforts such as community meals, come under the Outreach Committee's umbrella.

TRIMMING AWAY THE UNPRODUCTIVE, UNNECESSARY



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I don't think Trinity's future is as dire as some might believe, as long as we're willing to let go of those things that add nothing of value to worship or to congregational life. Martin Luther called such things and practices "adiaphoria."

It's a time of transition and that reality can be both unsettling and a scary. Change can ramp up the anxiety and that is where one of the major challenges lie. But we're in the season for trimming away the clutter and the dead leaves it's the natural course of life and we should be open the opportunities and possibilities that it offers.

We've been spending time with the (Gospel of) John since Easter.

On Sundays, we have heard about Jesus the Good Shepherd and Jesus the vine.

In spring, vineyards and their workers spend a great deal of time going vine to vine, trimming away the unproductive or dead branches and using some of the dead material as fertilizer around the base of the vine.

Jesus says "...you are the branches."

It's interesting that the writer of John uses the word "cleansed" when discussing discarding unproductive branches. Branches are cleansed of the unproductive stuff so they can be better nourished by the vine (Jesus).

Through our baptism, we have been cleansed ... something that we affirm when we take part in the Thanksgiving for Baptism at the start of Sunday services.

Gardeners know the value of pruning vines and bushes. Such cleansing allows fruit and flowers to flourish - providing food and beauty.

Perhaps we can indulge in a bit of personal spring cleaning - reflecting upon the smaller branches in our lives that are dead or that do not offer the promise of life.

Recognizing the attitudes and approaches that detract from our spiritual and communal lives - the things that divert nutrients from the affirming parts of our lives and even from the lives of others - and removing them so that the nourishment and beauty of God's unconditional love can be realized in the world and in our lives.

← **“Adiaphora” are matters not regarded as essential to faith.**

➤➤➤ MUTUAL MINISTRY

One of the new committees at Trinity is Mutual Ministry.

This committee oversees personnel matters, serves as a conflict-resolution body for the congregation, following the ELCIC guidelines and makes recommendations to the congregational council.

Mutual Ministry would be the body where members can have their grievances heard and addressed.

The Mutual Ministry's conflict-resolution process is largely governed by the directives of the ELCIC.

As well, Mutual Ministry conducts an annual review of Pastor and staff and makes recommendations to Congregational Council.

Membership is on the recommendation of the pastor and on the approval of the congregational council.

The members of Mutual Ministry are: Olga Schutz, George Lom, Toniee Song and Mpokeleg Makwati (council liaison).

**TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PRE-AUTHORIZED REMITTANCE PROGRAM**

AUTHORIZATION

I hereby authorize *Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church*, 1215 Parent Avenue, Windsor, ON N8X 4J1, to cause a cheque to be drawn on my account, each month as a contribution by me to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, as follows:

Total *monthly* contributions to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of:

_____ (\$ _____ .00) per month

Distributed as follows:

Current Giving/Benevolence \$ _____ per month

Global Hunger and Development Agency (GHDA) \$ _____ per month

Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) \$ _____ per month

ELCIC World Missions/Volunteers in Mission \$ _____ per month

Specify _____ \$ _____ per month

Specify _____ \$ _____ per month

Specify _____ \$ _____ per month

Total Monthly Giving: \$ _____ per month

Contributor's name _____ Envelope # _____

Bank/Trust/Credit Union Name _____

Branch Address: _____

Account Number _____ Type of Account _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

This authority may be changed or cancelled by the contributor at any time.

To ensure accuracy, a sample cheque marked "VOID" must accompany this form.

The transfer of contributions to the ministry of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church will begin in the month *following* receipt of this authorization.