



March 2020

From the Pastor's Pen

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Trinity Presbyterian Church
 9303 E. 111th St. S.
 Bixby, OK 74008
 918-369-3690
trinitychurchbixby.org

SERVING YOU

Rev. Lucus Keppel, Co-Pastor
 (cell) 248-845-8287
trinitypastor@olp.net

Rev. Elana Levy, Co-Pastor
 (cell) 757-876-7025 (Elana)
trinitypastor@olp.net

Erik Collins, Director of Music
 (cell) 918-809-3418

Donna Bridenstine, Childcare
 (cell) 918-982-5868

Kim Harvey, Admin. Assistant
 (office) 918-369-3690
trinity@olp.net

Fear and Faith



(“Female Flight Attendant Performing a Pre-Flight Safety Demonstration” by Miguel Discart, Warsaw, Poland, 2015)

“¹²The descendants of Simeon by their clans: of Nemuel, the clan of the Nemuelites; of Jamin, the clan of the Jaminites; of Jachin, the clan of the Jachinites; ¹³of Zerah, the clan of the Zerahites; of Shaul, the clan of the Shaulites. ¹⁴These are the clans of the Simeonites, twenty-two thousand two hundred. ¹⁵The children of Gad by their clans: of Zephon, the clan of the Zephonites; of Haggi, the clan of the Haggites; of Shuni, the clan of the Shunites; ¹⁶of Ozni, the clan of the Oznites; of Eri, the clan of the Erites; ¹⁷of Arod, the clan of the Arodites; of Areli, the clan of the Arelites. ¹⁸These are the clans of the Gadites: the number of those enrolled was forty thousand five hundred.”

– Numbers 26:12-18

One of the times that I was most scared in my whole life was back in seminary. I was on a plane coming back to school after a weekend in North Carolina. At the time, I was taking this Old Testament survey course from a professor who really knew her stuff – and she expected you to know your stuff, too. Every class she assigned weighty, kind of dense readings, articles, and chapters about various books of the Bible. Then, on top of that, she asked us to read that book of the Bible in two different translations.

So, I'm on the plane, trying to be diligent and finish my work and I'm reading a passage very much like the one above. The descendants of this guy...the descendants of that guy...and here's how many there were. Now, I love the Bible. It makes my heart sing and it challenges my faith and learning from it and being changed by it makes the whole world come alive. But some parts of it are just a bit...more difficult to connect to.

Cont'd on p.2

Pastor's Pen cont.

I'm on the plane when, all of a sudden, one of the flight attendants began to make an announcement. She was still smiling. She was still using that sunny, shiny, flight attendant voice. But she was informing us that, unfortunately, we were going to need to do an "emergency landing" so we would all need to learn the "brace position." I do not believe she ever used the word "crash," but we all knew what she was talking about.

We didn't get too much information about what exactly the problem was. I remember her saying, "we'll probably be fine, but we want to be in this brace position just in case." Instantly, my mind was racing, "is this true? Is this only a precaution in the very unlikely event that things go wrong or is she just *saying* that so that we'll all be calm and not panic?" She proceeded to explain how to brace ourselves: lean forward, hands on the seat back in front of us, head down. She said she would let us know when we needed to get into position.

At that moment, everything in the plane seemed fine. There was no turbulence – no rough ride or scary engines noises. Still, there we were waiting for something maybe awful, maybe nothing. I've never been on a plane that went that silent that quickly or stayed silent for that long. I prayed in panic and I know I wasn't the only one. After a little while, though, I could tell that I couldn't focus on my prayers. I needed something concrete to put my focus on so I could keep it together. I looked down at the Bibles open before me and thought, "what better thing for a Christian to do than read the Bible?"

So I read: "The descendants of Simeon by their clans: of Nemuel, the clan of the Nemuelites; of Jamin, the clan of the Jaminites; of Jachin, the clan of the Jachinites; of Zerah, the clan of the Zerahites; of Shaul, the clan of the Shaulites. These are the clans of the Simeonites, twenty-two thousand two hundred. The children of God by their clans..." After each individual chapter, I read the exact same chapter over again in the other translation. Before too long, I was totally frustrated and overwhelmed. I started to rail at God. "God, how could you do this to me? Why couldn't it be some passage that would move me and comfort me more easily? Why not 'the Lord is my shepherd' or 'I am the way, the truth, and the life'? Why did it have to be practically unpronounceable names and endless, endless numbers?"

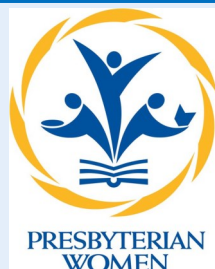
Then it was like a little miracle happened. God helped me to step back from my fear and frustration. I realized, that I was a follower of Christ, called to study the word and to be guided and forever changed by it. At that moment, I was called to study that particular part of the Bible – no matter how incomprehensible it was to me. So, I realized that the most faithful thing that I could do would be to keep reading – to keep reading as long as I could. In my "mind's ear" I tried to sound out all those names. Every times a census number came up, I tried to imagine all those people – the vast family of the children of God.

I had no control over the situation whatsoever. I couldn't make it better (or worse, thankfully). All I could do was pray and hope and trust in God to see me through no matter what happened. I started to see how all the spiritual disciplines that God has given us: prayer and Bible study, worship, connecting with one another in love and service – these were given to us for the best and worst of times. They help us to see how God is still there, still working no matter what happens in our lives or in the world. They help us see that we're all in this together just like every single one of us on that airplane that day.

I'm happy to report to you all that, though we braced for a crash landing, the plane ended up landing with relatively few bumps in the road. We all made it and a man sitting near me shared some celebratory almonds.

I've been thinking about that day a lot lately as we've been social distancing and now sheltering in place because of the corona virus. We don't know what will happen. We don't know how bad things will get, but we still have prayer, Bible study, worship, and ways to reach out to be there for one another. We hear the promises of our faith: that God is with us, that Christ goes before us, that the Spirit carries our hearts every moment of every day. In these scary uncertain times, let us remember that we are an Easter people – forever joined to Christ in life and in death. Just as he rose, so shall we rise. Do not be afraid: Easter is coming and Easter is here. Thanks be to God! Amen.

~Pastor Elana



Trinity Presbyterian Women
meet the
2nd Wednesday of each month at 9:45 am in
the Trinity Café.

Please join us!


Lenten Devotional Calendar

For each day there will be three suggestions of spiritual disciplines you can follow during this Lenten season. Traditionally, Lent has been practiced through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving so each day will offer one suggestion from each category. You can try to do one (or more!)

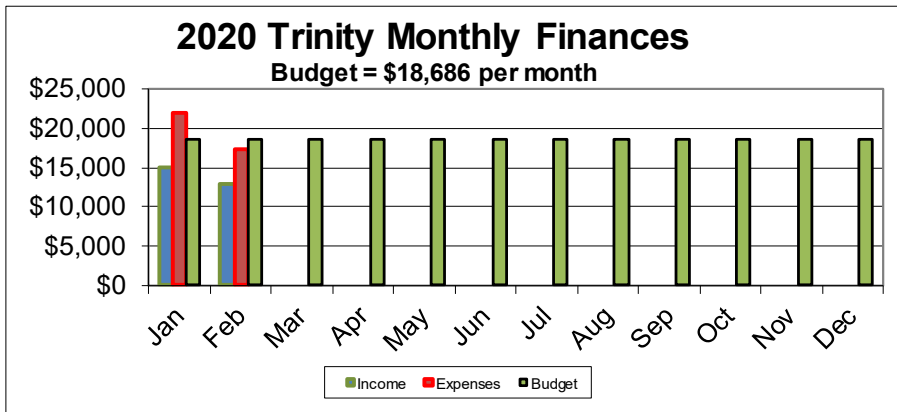
LENT

Pray + Fast + Give

<p>April 1st</p> <p>P: Thank God for clean water.</p> <p>F: Fast from sugary drinks</p> <p>A: Add a dime for every room in your house.</p>	<p>April 2nd</p> <p>P: Pray for good relationships</p> <p>F: Fast from getting in others' space</p> <p>A: Make room for someone</p>	<p>April 3rd</p> <p>P: Pray for creation</p> <p>F: Fast from thanklessness</p> <p>A: Buy something for B4B</p>	<p>April 4th</p> <p>P: Say a prayer for hungry children</p> <p>F: Skip lunch</p> <p>A: Add 15 cents for every meal you ate out this week.</p>
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>April 5th</p> <p><u>Palm Sunday</u></p> <p>P: Worship with us at 10:30</p> <p>F: Fast from despair</p> <p>A: Be extra welcoming</p>	<p>April 6th</p> <p><u>Monday of Holy Week</u></p> <p>P: Pray as you read the story of Holy Week in one Gospel.</p> <p>F: Fast from anger today</p> <p>A: Make a change in your life</p>	<p>April 7th</p> <p><u>Tuesday of Holy Week</u></p> <p>P: Think of a favorite hymn and let it be your prayer today.</p> <p>F: Fast from something you don't need.</p> <p>A: Buy something for BOC</p>	<p>April 8th</p> <p><u>Wednesday of Holy Week</u></p> <p>P: Pray that you can seek and grant forgiveness.</p> <p>F: Fast from puffing yourself up or beating yourself down.</p> <p>A: Add a quarter for every argument you had this week.</p>	<p>April 9th</p> <p><u>Maundy Thursday</u></p> <p>P: Worship with us at (?)</p> <p>F: Fast from being in control all the time.</p> <p>A: Let someone else help you today even if it's hard.</p>	<p>April 10th</p> <p><u>Good Friday</u></p> <p>P: Worship with us at (?)</p> <p>F: Fast from pride</p> <p>A: Help someone out who needs it.</p>	<p>April 11th</p> <p><u>Holy Saturday</u></p> <p>P: Take time to sit in silence and meditate on everything God has done.</p> <p>F: Fast from computer and TV screens</p> <p>A: Decide where to donate your giving jar</p>
<p>April 12th</p> <p><u>Easter Sunday</u></p> <p>P: Worship with us at 10:30</p> <p>F: Give up giving things up!</p> <p>A: Celebrate and be joyful with those you love!</p>						

Finance/Stewardship grant kessler



2020	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Budget</u>
YTD	\$ 28,123	\$ 39,303	\$ 224,226

Congregational Care

liz powell

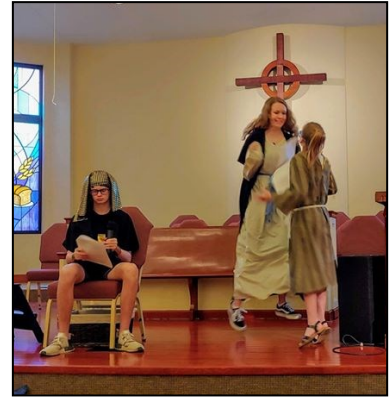
Lunch Bunch – At this time there are no scheduled lunch bunch activities. So as we all sit at home staring at our own four walls, trying not to touch our faces and washing the skin off our hands, please be thinking about where you would like to lunch when this period of social distancing ends! Imagining yourself at a favorite restaurant enjoying the company of friends is free and has no calories. Send any suggestions to my email 3014elizabeth@gmail.com

Assistance – If you or if you know of someone who has a need during our isolation please inform the Pastors. They can get information to the Congregational Care Team and we will assist. We can go to the grocery store, pick up items from a pharmacy or run errands.

~Respectfully submitted, Liz Powell

Trinity Photo Album

Scenes from *Signed, Sealed, Delivered: The Midwives Play*
Youth Sunday March 8, 2020



April Lectionary Readings

Palm Sunday—April 5

Matthew 21:1-11;
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Phil. 2:5-11;
Matthew 26:14-27:66

Easter Sunday - April 12

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;
1 Cor. 3:1-4
John 20:1-18

2nd Sunday of Easter— April 19

Acts 2:14a, 22-32;
Psalm 16;
1 Peter 1:3-9;
John 20:19-31

3rd Sunday of Easter—April 26

Acts 2:14a, 36-41;
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19;
1 Peter 1:17-23;
Luke 24:13-35



April

Carol Gott	4/1
Bess Guthrie	4/6
Michelle Buttress	4/8
Greg Spencer	4/14
Kaiden Haughey	4/15
Hannah Cowan	4/18
Sela Smith	4/22
Lois Rude	4/26
Tyler Eckert	4/27
Alec Wigton	4/30



APRIL 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 10:15 am Pack Backpacks 11:00 am Mid-week book study 6:30 pm Bells	2 6:30 pm Lenten study	3	4
5 Palm Sunday	6	7 6:00 pm Read the Bible Class	8 9:45 am Presby. Women 11:00 am Mid-wk bk sdy. 6:30 pm Bells	9 Maundy Thursday Service @ 6:30 pm	10 Good Friday Church Office closed Service @ 6:30 pm	11
12 Communion Easter Sunday 9:15 Easter Brunch 10:00 Egg Hunt	13	14	15 10:15 am Pack Backpacks 11:00 am Mid-Week Bk. Study 6:30 pm Bells	16	17	18
19 11:45 AM SESSION	20	21	22 10:30 am Pack backpacks 11:00 am Mid-Week Bk. Study 6:30 pm Bells	23	24	25
26 Holy Humor Sunday Lunch Bunch Location TBA	27	28 6:00 pm Read the Bible Class	29	30		

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