



From the Pastor's Pen

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Refocus



(“Petra, Siq” by Arian Zwegers)

“Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.”
– Psalm 119:105

Every Friday, Lucus sets up the array of cameras and stands, sound recorders and cords that make up the infrastructure of our recorded Sunday services. You may have noticed that each camera works a little bit differently. One, for example, seems to lean quite heavily on one feature: the autofocus. When it works, no one is the wiser, but I have noticed that, at times, it decides that the sanctuary banner is the most important thing in the frame or some seemingly randomly selected point in the foreground. Somehow, something moves too fast or confuses its sensors and the “main action” becomes a blur. Because it gets to working on autopilot, we can all miss out on what’s happening.

Cont'd.....

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Pastor's Pen, cont.

The season of Lent begins on February 17th this year, and we will mark this shift with an online Ash Wednesday service on the 17th at 6:30 pm. Lent is a time when we prepare ourselves for Holy Week and for Easter. We look at our lives and our faith and rededicate ourselves, try to get ourselves back on the right path where we need it. Most years, we do this by taking up a new spiritual discipline like giving something up that we love, or adding something new to find a unique spiritual challenge. I don't know about you, but during this time of pandemic, it has felt like we've all been asked to give up an awful lot. Would it be spiritually fulfilling to give up yet another thing that we love? By the same token, we're also overwhelmed so often, aren't we? The stress and strain of getting through the day makes it hard to think about adding yet another thing to the list. How, then, can we honor Lent this year?

I think, like our blurry video camera, so often we have gotten caught up in autofocus in our own lives. The big things that continue to draw our attention have shifted us somewhat out of focus – and things have been going on for so long that it's hard to even realize that we are out of focus. When we read Psalm 119, we find this verse: "your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." This verse doesn't tell us that God illuminates the whole forest for us or that we can see and fully understand the world from sky to ground. No, through God's guidance and love, through the pages of holy scripture, we find that God offers us a light on the ground just before our feet. God gives us a small patch that will not overwhelm our ability to focus. Instead, God shows us where our next step should be and asks us to trust that the light will continue to shine.

This year, let us pay close attention to how we are spending our time and energy and attention. Do not feel pressure to make a grand gesture of self-deprivation or to add a spiritual discipline to your to-do list. Rather, take a few quiet moments and look at where your focus is. Can you sharpen your eye on something else sometimes – something that would feed your soul more? Can you pull back from diversions that leave you still feeling empty at the end? Can you find a moment to bask in the warmth of the light shining right at your feet and on into tomorrow?

Our church is offering two Lenten spiritual practices this year. One is to read a Psalm a day during Lent. We will post a link on the Facebook page and the Psalms are listed in the Newsletter calendar. We will suggest reading one a day starting with Psalm 1 and going up in chronological order, but feel free to read any Psalm you would like.

We will also have a Lenten evening study on Thursdays @ 6:30 starting February 18th on Zoom led by Pastor Lucas. It will be called "Refocus on the Ordinary." Using Jill Duffield's "Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects," we'll study how the ordinary world can help refocus us to the divine world.

May you find renewal, peace, and grace in your reflection this Lent.



**Trinity Presbyterian Women
meet the 2nd Wednesday of
each month at 9:45 am
Via Zoom.**

Please join us!

Refocus on Sacred Words

During Lent, we prepare our spirits to journey with Jesus to the cross, to the grave, and beyond.

We invite you to join us in reading a **Psalm a day** to refocus our attention on God's grace, mercy, and steadfast love.



Worship

Liz Powell

COMMUNION - We will celebrate communion on Sunday, February 6th. At this time, we plan on sharing this communion outside in the porte-cochere but the weather may have other plans so we will be flexible. If you would like to have communion elements delivered to your home please call the church office by Thursday, February 3rd.

CONFESSIONAL BANNERS – During each month of 2021, a different Confessional Banner will hang in the narthex. These banners represent each of the Confessions which are a foundation of our denomination. The banners will be presented in chronological order starting with the oldest Confession. The banner currently hanging in the narthex represents The Nicene Creed. This creed was established in 381 CE.



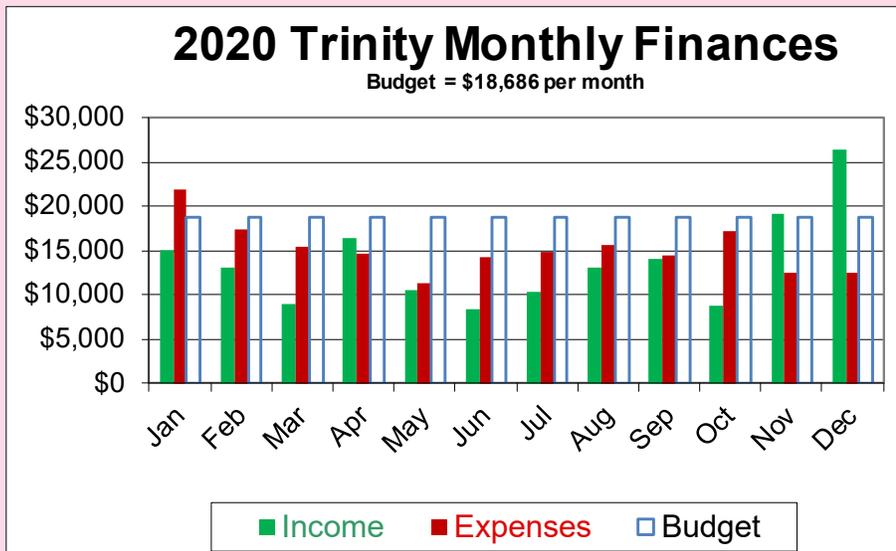
Additional Information about the banner:

On the banner, the triangle represents the Trinity, with signs at each point reminding us of the Spirit (the dove), God (the hand of blessing), and Christ (the Greek symbol). The symbol representing Christ is a combination of the letters Chi (X) and Rho (R), the first two letters of Christ's name in Greek. Constantine the Great was said to have seen this sign in a vision before a great battle, which led to his legalizing Christianity and later converting on his deathbed.



Finance/Stewardship

Grant Kessler



2020	Income	Expenses	Budget
YTD	\$ 164,244	\$181,778	\$224,226

Congregational Care

Liz Powell

The Congregational Care team looks forward to a new year and hopefully some return to “normal”. We are discussing ways in which we can gather for our Lunch Bunch Sundays. A couple of ideas include virtual lunch meetings or meeting in a local park and enjoying each other’s company at socially distanced picnic tables. If you have other ideas or would like to see either (or both) of these plans implemented, please contact a member of the Congregational Care Team.

Our team is tasked with keeping up with the needs of the congregation. As such, we check in with members of the congregation experiencing illness, loss or hardship. We can provide food, rides or just a friendly voice, but we need your help. If you know of someone in the congregation in need, please let us know.

February Fun Facts

February is mostly recognized for [Valentine’s Day](#), flowers, and depending on where you are, being incredibly cold!

Oddly enough, even though it’s just another month, there’s a lot of history behind this month!

Read on to find out some historical events which occurred in February, as well as how to came to be the shortest month of the year.

February fluctuates between having 28 and 29 days per year. The 29th day only occurs every 4 years during leap years.

The length of February was finalized when Julius Caesar remade the Roman calendar and assigned the month 28 days and 29 days. In 713 B.C., February was officially added to the Roman calendar.

If you were born in February, your birthstone is an amethyst and your flower is a primrose.

The western zodiac signs in February are Aquarius which is until February 19th, and Pisces, which is until [February 20th](#).

Over time, the length of February kept changing. At one point, it had as little as 23 days.

Monthly Liturgy

Feb. 7—5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isa. 40:21-31 and
Psalm 147: 1-11, 20c;
1 Cor. 9:16-23;
Mark 1:29-39

Feb. 14—Transfiguration of the Lord

2 Kings 2:12 and
Psalm 50:1-6;
2 Cor. 4:3-6;
Mark 9:2-9

Feb. 21—1st Sunday in Lent

Gen. 9:8-17; and
Psalm 25:1-10;
1 Peter 3:18-22;
Mark 19:9-15

Feb. 28—2nd Sunday in Lent

Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16; and
Psalm 22:23-31;
Rom. 4:13-25;
Mark 8:31-38



Bob Eckert	2/1
Kelsey Johnson	2/2
Dana Clawson	2/7
Emily Hanson	2/9
Ian Campbell	2/10
Lee Spencer	2/13
Robert VanNewkirk	2/15
Jim Mainer	2/18
Jean Righter	2/19
Jill Eckert	2/21
Stephen Swayze	2/22
Harriet Burns	2/24
John Clawson	2/27

Thank-You Notes

Just a note to say, "Thanks."

"Yes, thanks to my church family for all the prayers and support while I continue to receive cancer treatments. With my compromised immune system, I am unable to attend in-person services.

A special "thanks" to those who have written, called and even brought us food (especially AnneMarie). We are so blessed.

Love and hugs my brothers and sisters in Christ!"

~Lois Rude





SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 9:45 am P.W., via Zoom 11:00 am Midwk. Book Study via Zoom 5:30 pm Bells Practice	11	12	13
14 TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD COMMUNION VALENTINE'S DAY	15 President's Day Holiday Church Office Closed 6:30 pm Session Mtg Via Zoom.	16	17 11:00 am Midweek Bk. Sdy. Via Zoom ASH WEDNESDAY 6:30 pm Online Ash Wed. Service Read Psalm 1	18 6:30 pm Lenten Study* Via Zoom Read Psalm 2	19 Read Psalm 3	20 Read Psalm 4
21 Read Psalm 5	22 Read Psalm 6	23 10:00 am EOP Mtg. Via Zoom Read Psalm 7	24 11:00 am Midweek Bk. Sdy. Via Zoom 5:30 pm Bells Practice Read Psalm 8	25 6:30 pm Lenten Study* Via Zoom	26 Read Psalm 10	27 Read Psalm 11
28 Read Psalm 12		Lenten evening study on Thursdays @ 6:30 starting February 18 th on Zoom led by Pastor Lucas. It will be called "Refocus on the Ordinary." Using Jill Duffield's "Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects," we'll study how the ordinary world can help refocus us to the divine world.				

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