

JULY

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From the Pastor's Pen



("Meeting Between Esau and Jacob" by Giovanni Maria Bottalla, between 1636 and 1641, Italian, Baroque Period)

"¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷ Leah's eyes were weak, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. ¹⁸ Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, 'I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.' ¹⁹ Laban said, 'It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.' ²⁰ So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her."
-Gen 29:16-20

Our Summer Sermon Series is called Joseph: More than a Dream Coat. We'll be looking at Joseph's life from his conflict with his brothers, all the way to the surprise ending in Egypt. But, before we get started with our series, I thought it would be helpful for us to look back a little further in the story.

Tolstoy famously wrote, "Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way." If ever we could find a family where this quote applies, it would be to Jacob and his newly forming family. We remember that Jacob had run away from home after tricking his brother Esau

Pastor's Pen cont.

out of his birthright and their father's blessing. He's come to stay with his mother's family, with her brother Laban. Right away, Jacob is lovestruck with daughter number 2. Rachel is so lovely that he kisses her the first time he meets her and weeps aloud!

Jacob makes an agreement to work for Laban for Rachel's hand. Can't you just see him – head over heels, making googly eyes and giggling? He lives seven years like he's in a dream, just waiting for the fateful day when he and Rachel can finally get married. When Jacob, the one who was always tricking friends and family alike, is tricked by Uncle Laban! Laban pulls the old switcheroo and marries his oldest daughter Leah to Jacob.

Now, we don't know a lot about Leah, but don't you feel some pity for her? The only way she can get married, apparently, is for her dad to trick someone! That...is not the greatest setup for a happy marriage. The scripture tells us that, "Leah's eyes were weak." Some translations replace "weak" with "lovely." It's kind of a confusing word in Hebrew – it could mean soft as in beautiful, tender-hearted, or even fainthearted. Some suggest that her eyes were weak because she suffered and cried so much. Others would say that her eyes were gentle.

Still, she wasn't preferred and yet she was still married. Then, her newly minted husband spent another seven years working to marry her little sister. Think of the conflict in that house! There's sibling rivalry with most any siblings, but to be locked into a marriage where you're so obviously – not even second choice, but no choice at all! Soon, their sibling rivalry explodes into competitive child-birthing. Here, Leah is fertile and Rachel isn't. They fight over their husband, over their children, over circumstances beyond their control. They give their handmaids in marriage to their husband so that they can tally up more and more children for their "side."

What do you think it was like to be a child growing up in that household? Wouldn't you think the kids would pick up on their parents' power struggles and quarrels and hurt feelings and competitiveness? Not only that – the Bible tells us that Leah (and her maid Zilpah) had 9 children whereas Rachel (and her maid Bilhah) had 4 children. If their sibling rivalry chose sides over whose Mom is the best, the team was already well stacked against the children of Rachel and her maid! So, why was Joseph the darling son? Because he was Rachel's firstborn son, even though there had been ELEVEN CHILDREN born before him.

Sometimes we inherit conflicts – from our families, our communities, even our churches. We know that we don't like those other guys because they're not our guys! Our guys are the greatest because – if they weren't great, they wouldn't BE our guys! Sometimes the quickest way to bond a group is to hate the same people, but as the family of Jacob and Leah and Rachel and Zilpah and Bilhah can tell you – that's not going to make for a lot of family harmony and love. God gave us hearts that are big enough and full enough to love those we love without needing to hate those we hate. Loving one doesn't make the next one less than.

For the habits of hating and mocking and needling that we have learned, we ask for grace and wisdom to seek the course of love and peace, this day and always. May we remember to love in a way that heals both us and our families as the God of love has taught us since the beginning. Amen.

~Pastor Elana

Monthly Liturgy

4th Sunday after Pentecost—July 7th

2 Kings 5:1-14

Psalm 30

Galatians 6:(1-6) 7-16

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

5th Sunday after Pentecost—July 14th

Amos 7:7-17

Psalm 82

Colossians 1:1-14

Luke 10:25-37

6th Sunday after Pentecost—July 21st

Amos 8:1-12

Psalm 52

Colossians 1:15-28

Luke 10:38-42

7th Sunday after Pentecost—July 28th

Hosea 1:2-10

Psalm 85

Colossians 2:6-15

Luke 11:1-13

Christian Education

Melinda Carver

Multi-grade Sunday School (pre-k through fourth grade)

This summer we're inviting young children through fifth grade to the classroom by the CE office each week for engaging lessons focused on a different bible stories from the Old Testament. A great team of teachers are taking turns presenting a variety of kid-friendly experiences created to emphasize how very much God loves each of us! Hope to see you!

July 7th	Melinda Carver
July 14th	Millie Spencer
July 21st	Valerie Wagner
July 28th	Katy Orrell



The Tween/Youth Class (fifth through twelfth grade)

Teens! We're looking forward to seeing all of you July 7th for Sunday School! We will have an interesting lesson on INSTAFAME taught by Ben H. After church, we can make our own pizzas for lunch and then will discuss future Youth activities. Please join us!

For weeks in July, we would appreciate any help from the Youth in our younger children Sunday School room. We need some older friends for our younger friends. Thank you!

Midweek Book Study

Midweek Book Study will begin a new study, *Genesis: A Living Conversation*, by Bill Moyers. This study is a video series. During our study, we will view a portion of the video, followed by a lively discussion. All interested adults are invited to join in the cafe at 11:00 am. Lunch fellowship follows book study for all who can bring a lunch and stay for friendly conversation.

Sunday Morning Opportunities

Childcare for infants through preschool is always available every Sunday morning from 9:00 a.m. through the close of worship. Donna Bridenstine offers a nurturing engaging atmosphere for our very youngest.

Pre-kindergarteners and kindergarteners can join Donna and an adult volunteer (whenever needed) after their Sunday School class and through worship or they can join her in the nursery after Time With Children during the service. Please note: Donna can be ready at 8:15 for childcare for those parents/guardians practicing with the choir. She's also available for team meetings on the second Wednesday of each month. Just let Melinda Carver know.

Schedule for Nursery help,
if needed.

July 7th	Melinda Carver
July 14th	Millie Spencer
July 21st	Katy Orrell
July 28th	Debbie Straabe

Thank you ladies for your
time and service!

Youth News

The success of this year's Vacation Bible School was due to the wonderful efforts of the Trinity community. This year's theme: ROAR! Life is wild, God is Good was evidenced in our music, play, art, and drama. Each evening began with a family meal. Our kiddos then participated in music, games, crafts, KidVid, and drama. We are thankful for organization by Cathy Hanson and Kate Hanson. Our music was led by Cathy and Erik. Our shepherds were Kate, Brenda, Sally A., Christy, Molly, and Melinda. Our drama was led by Pastors Elana and Lucus and featured the story of Moses. Crafts were by Beth, Jacey, and Chuck. Outdoor play with Randy and KidVid with Stephanie. Our great dinners were planned and prepared by John, Liz, Ann F., Jim, Tomye, Dwayne, Debbie, and Barry. Our video was by Cynthia and our front table people Ann R. and Sally B. Finally, we had great assistance by our youth, Matthew, Maverick, Mitchell, Seve, Kira, and Leah. As you can see, it takes a village.

Our VBS mission project was to team with Marion Medical Missions and the church congregation to build two wells in Eastern Africa at a cost of \$900. At this time we've raised enough to build 1.5 wells! We feel sure we'll be able to raise the full amount. Thanks to all for your wonderful dedication our VBS would not have been the great community outreach without your help!



Grant Kessler

Congregational Care

The Team has a list of congregational members who are willing to help other members by providing transportation to the worship service. If you are a member in need of assistance, please contact us.

The Congregational Team hosted the Team Meeting evening dinner June 12.

The Congregational Lunch Bunch is considering its next Lunch August 18. If you are a member of the congregation or a visitor, please plan on attending. The final date and location will be communicated as the day approaches.

The most important way that you can help our Team, is by letting us know of any of any of Trinity's congregational members who are sick, who are in the hospital, are having surgery, or have other needs so that we may support and provide assistance to them and their families. We will be glad to send cards, call, visit, provide meals, or other assistance as needed. Please make sure we are aware of our college students that are away from home and need a bit of additional support in the way of cards/letters and occasional gift cards.

Grant Kessler is the Session contact for the Congregational Care Team and can be contacted at g@kessler5.com.

Presbyterian Women Mission Projects

Emergency Infant Services (<https://www.eistulsa.org>)

Non-profit providing help for children 0-5, assisting 18,000 infants and toddlers per year

NEEDS:

Layette-supplies for one bag

- Sleeper and Onesie
(newborn to preemie; 0-3 months)
- Pair of booties
- Fleece blanket
- Receiving blanket
- Baby wash
- Bottle
- Bulb syringe
- Pacifier
- Thermometer
- New reusable shopping bag to hold supplies

Art Kit-supplies for one kit

- Drawing paper
- Construction paper
- Markers
- Coloring and Activity Books
- Glue sticks
- Stickers



Inverness Village

(<https://www.invernessvillage.com/health-services/memory-support>)
Non-profit retirement community with memory support unit

Fidget Mats and Aprons

Fabric placemats; scraps of fabric, cuffs to button and unbutton, ribbon, lace, buttons, knitted flowers or other knitted objects, men's ties, bows, zippers, shoelaces and other tactile odds and ends that can be hand-sewn or glued to a mat/apron.

(These objects will all be sewn to a placemat or an apron for the patient to manipulate.
Think about a "busy book" for adults)



**These items will be collected until July 25th and will be taken to the PW Synod Meeting at First Presbyterian in Tulsa.

Mission

Liz Powell

THANKS TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS – The first two Camp Trinity days were a success! Thanks to everyone who helped make these days possible!

CAMP TRINITY – Is a day camp we have offered for the last 8 summers. The last two camps this year will be held on:

JULY 23RD

JULY 30TH

Camp is from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Camp activities include the following: Music, Art, Science, Gardening, Games, Story Time, Theater, and Lunch. The camp is open to all kids entering Kindergarten – 6th Grade in the fall of 2019. There is no charge to attend the camp. If you have any questions, please see John Clawson or Liz Powell.



Evangelism

Dwayne Strasheim

I'd like to devote my column this month to recognizing all of the volunteers who have served as greeters and exterior sign changers during the first half of 2019.

The following persons have served as greeters at Sunday services so far this year: Sally Autin, Jackie Ballew, Dorothy Block, Sally Bright, Brenda Cunningham, Evelyn Fenton, Cathie Harper, Beverly McComb, Millie Spencer, and Cindy Strasheim.

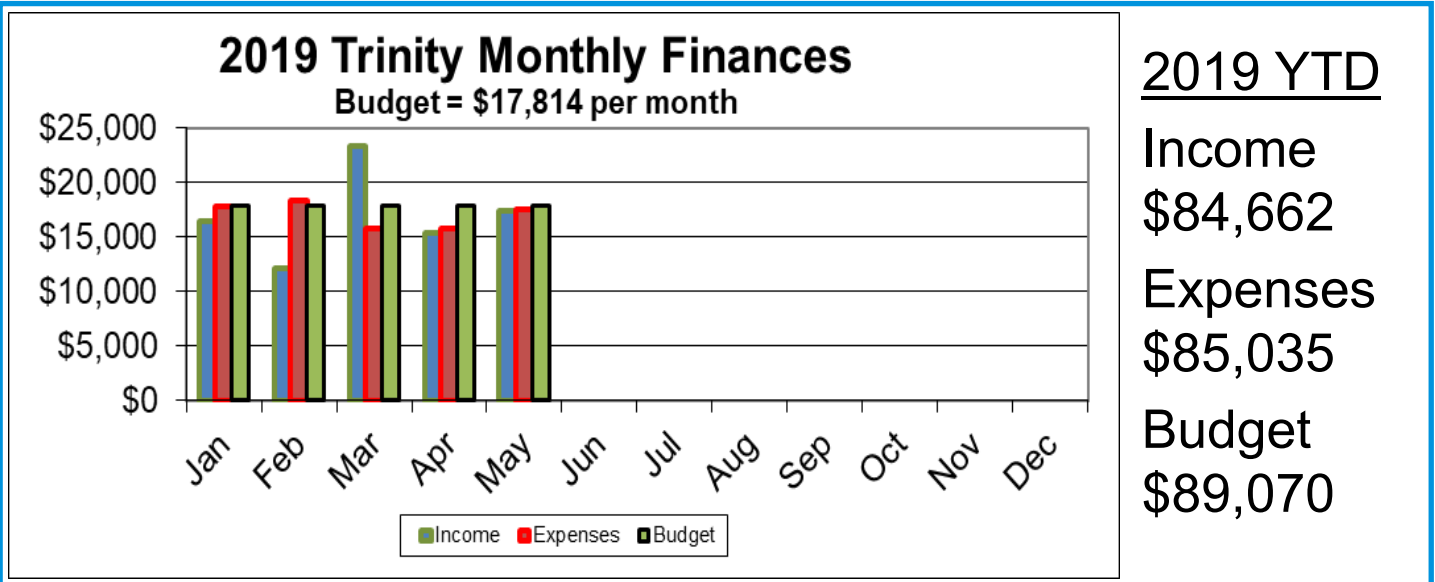
Exterior sign changers have included Brenda Cunningham, Stephanie Smith, Millie Spencer, and Barry Straabe.

The mission of the Evangelism Team is to promote our Christian faith by sharing the love of God with our congregation and the surrounding community. Thanks to all who have helped us to reach that goal. What a supportive, dedicated, awesome congregation we have here at Trinity!

Respectfully submitted,
Dwayne Strasheim

Stewardship & Finance

Craig Hanson



- | | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Liz Powell | 07/08 |
| Nancy Cain | 07/09 |
| Zac Adams | 07/10 |
| Ronald Rude | 07/10 |
| Phil Park | 07/12 |
| Jean Keller | 07/16 |
| Brenda Cunningham | 07/20 |
| Debbie Straabe | 07/22 |
| Leslie Haughey | 07/30 |
| Erik Collins | 07/31 |

Volunteers Needed!!

Sound/Video Volunteers needed for Sundays. Will train you, you'll have the best seat in the house, and it won't work without you!

If interested, Contact Craig Hanson, chanson@oneok.com; 918-607-4171

Summer Sermon Series


Join us Sundays in July and August for the series, Joseph: More than a Dream Coat.

Trinity Garden

Thanks to Jim Mainer for digging the potatoes and making them available to all. They were starting to rot from all the rain. Also, thanks to Ted Karner for bagging them for us. Hope everyone is enjoying them!

-Nancy Cain



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 Book Study at 11:00am	4 	5	6
7 Youth meeting and pizza lunch after worship	8	9	10 Book Study at 11:00am	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Book Study at 11:00am	18	19	20
21	22	23 Camp Trinity 10:00-2:00	24 Book Study at 11:00am	25 —Presbyterian	26 Women Synod	27 Gathering—
28	29	30 Camp Trinity 10:00-2:00	31 Book Study at 11:00am	27	28	29