

Trinity Tidings



May 2021

From the Pastor's Pen

Inside this issue:

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| From the Pastor's Pen | 1-2 |
| Finance/Stewardship | 2 |
| Calendar | 3 |
| Presbyterian Women | 4 |
| Covid 19 Policy update | 4 |
| Congregational Care | 4 |
| Worship | 5 |
| Eastertide | 6 |
| Eastertide, Mission | 7 |
| B'days/Congrats Grads | 8 |
| Sympathies | 8 |



...I encourage you to live as people worthy of the call you received from God. Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love, and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together. ~Ephesians 4:1-3

A dear friend of mine from college recently asked me about the idea of a Christian Calling or Vocation. She is from a different Christian tradition that emphasizes patriarchy and “complementarianism” – the idea that women should be subordinate to men, because men and women have different roles to fulfil in society. My friend now feels tension between what is expected of her from her family and how she feels God calling her to be in the world – a tension, I think, that is recognizable by many of us, too.

The issue of following your vocation, of being able to do what God has called you to do, is one that occurs again and again in the history of the church and throughout scripture. Noah was mocked for listening to God's call to build a boat, and Jacob used trickery to get what he wanted, thinking it was God's call to his life. Esther never mentions God directly, but Mordecai points out to her that, as she is made queen, she may have been called “to such a time as this.” Deborah is called as a judge, a leader in a time of turmoil. Samuel is literally called by God by name, but has trouble believing that it is God that is calling him.

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

Deb Walker, Admin. Assistant
(office) 918-369-3690
trinity@olp.net

Mary and Martha are called to two different ways of showing their love, and disagree about which is better. Saul, who has been persecuting Christians, is literally blinded by God as God calls him to change his ways.

We know that listening to God’s call for our lives is not a one-time thing, too. How God calls you as a child is different than the call in our early adulthood, which is different still from the God’s call to you in later adulthood. But listening to God’s call, and following the path that God provides, we may find ourselves prepared to hear God’s calling anew.

But what happens when we are prevented from following the vocation, the calling, that God has set on our hearts? It’s one thing to wander from the path, and hear God’s call to return. It’s yet another to be prevented from returning to the path by those who tell us that it can’t possibly be a call in the first place. Preventing people from answering God’s call is the opposite of what Paul encourages us to do, to “accept each other with love.”

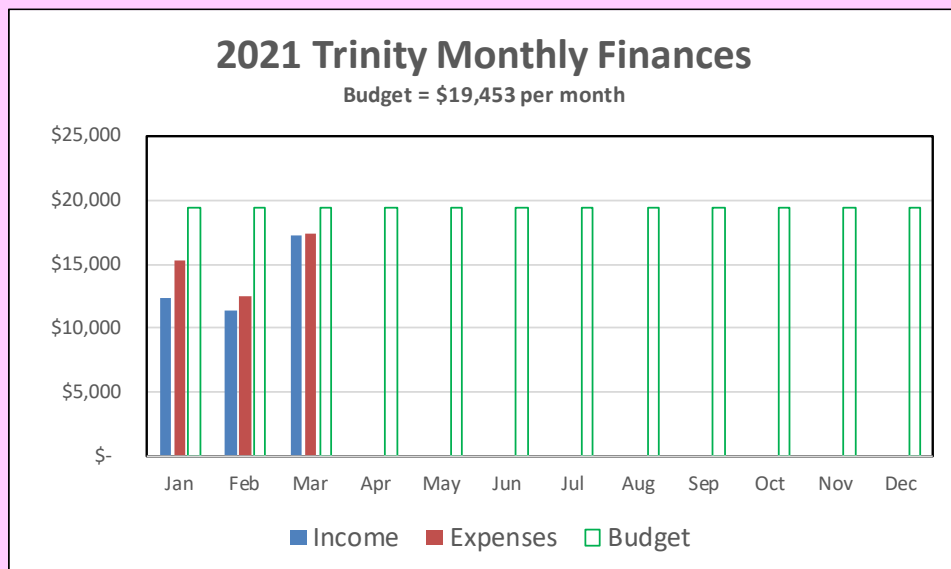
Some people may be called to be an example of Christian love in the workplace. Others may be called to share the Gospel with their family, and close friends. Some may be called to wander the wilderness alone, and others to advocate on behalf of the marginalized. Some may spend their whole life in one place, focusing on the task before them – and others may move every few years, knowing that God is leading them in love.

God’s call to you will never be identical to God’s call to someone else, and we should not work to prevent someone from answering God’s call just because it is not what we expect. But, we should work together to discern a call, knowing that as we conduct ourselves with humility, gentleness, and patience, we can follow the Light of the World as the Spirit calls us.

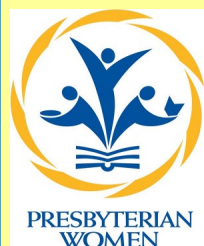
~Pastor Lucus

Finance/Stewardship

grant kessler



| 2021 | <u>Income</u> | <u>Expenses</u> | <u>Budget</u> |
|------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| YTD | \$ 41,006 | \$ 45,277 | \$ 233,441 |



Trinity Presbyterian Women meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 9:30 via Zoom. The PW from John Knox will join us Wednesday, May 12th @ 9:45am.

****Cindy Strasheim and Annemarie Kessler****
have been named *Mission and Justice and Peace Opportunity* Leaders for EOP. They will be sharing Mission opportunities that are available for our PW!

COVID-19 Policy Update at Trinity Presbyterian Church

The Session voted to ease a number of restrictions at Trinity, recognizing the greater number of vaccinated people and the lessening of the pandemic locally. Please note the following:

Masks

Please do wear a mask when entering the building, and maintain social distance. However, in a small group (such as Sunday School, Book Study, PW, or so on), if all members of the group agree, you may remove your masks. We will continue wearing masks in worship, except during communion.

Worship

We are no longer checking temperatures at the door, nor are we encouraging ushers to seat people. You are welcome to find a place in the sanctuary for yourself, but be sure to say hello to the greeters and pick up a bulletin on your way in! Ushers will resume distributing the communion elements and passing the offering plate in worship.

Music will continue to be instrumental only at this time. If you are missing singing hymns, remember that the online worship service contains sung music sections.

Food and Drink

If you wish to bring something to eat or drink, you may do so, though coffee and snacks are not yet available at the church.

General Guidelines

Let's continue to be respectful of each other, and be courteous towards those who are most vulnerable by respecting a desire to wear masks and be socially distant. It's important to ask, "May I shake your hand?" or "Are you comfortable with a hug?"

Congregational Care

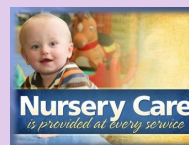
Richard Spencer

Rides to Worship-

Congregational Care and Worship are coordinating rides for those in need. Please contact Richard Spencer or Liz Powell for details. We have a new prayer request form! Please use the following link <http://bit.ly/trinitybixbyprays>.

Nursery Care-

Donna Bridenstine will be in the nursery at 10:00 on Sunday mornings to care for our children during the worship service.



Worship

liz powell

Worship Team

In the month of May communion will be served on May 2nd and on May 30th. If you would like to have Communion brought to your home please call the church office. On May 9th we will celebrate Mother's Day. May 23rd is Pentecost, the birthday of the church, everyone is invited to wear the colors found in a flame of fire.

We will continue to recognize the Confessions of our faith and during the month of May the banner representing the Heidelberg Catechism will hang in the Narthex.

Heidelberg Confession



The Heidelberg Catechism

The Reformation was not a singular movement. Soon after Luther posted his ninety-five theses, reform movements sprang up throughout Europe. As Lutheran thought moved down the Neckar River, Reformed thought traveled up the Rhine from Switzerland. They met at Heidelberg, seat of the oldest university in Germany and capital of the province known as the Palatinate. Tension between Lutherans and Reformed Christians was intense. Because the Reformed did not believe in the real, bodily presence of Christ in the bread and wine, Lutherans believed that they were desecrating the Lord's Supper. Acting to end the controversy, Frederick the Elector, ruler of the Palatinate, asked two young men of Heidelberg—Zacharias Ursinus, professor of theology, and Kaspar Olevianus, preacher to the city—to prepare a catechism acceptable to 'both sides. They revised an earlier catechism that Ursinus had written, using its outline and some ninety of its questions and answers.

Completed in 1562, the Heidelberg Catechism was published in January of the following year.

The Heidelberg Catechism opens with two questions concerning our comfort in life and death. The knowledge that our only comfort is Jesus Christ frames the remainder of the catechism. Each of its three parts corresponds to a line of Romans 7:24–25 (NRSV), where Paul cries: "Wretched man that I am; Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord;" Thus, questions 3–11 deal with our sin and misery, questions 12–85 with the way in which God in Jesus Christ frees us, and questions 86–129 with the manner in which we express gratitude to God for our deliverance.

Each question of the catechism is personal, addressed to "you." Each answer draws as much as possible on biblical language. The catechism's tone is irenic, showing nothing of the controversy that called it forth. Its theology is both catholic, universal in appeal, and evangelical, setting forth the gospel of Jesus Christ. Providing a basis for peaceful coexistence between Lutheran and Reformed Christians, the catechism denied that the bread and wine become the very body and blood of Christ but affirmed that "by this visible sign and pledge ... we come to share in his true body and blood through the working of the Holy Spirit ..." (paragraph 4.079).

The influence of the Heidelberg Catechism in the church's preaching and teaching continues to be felt in Germany, Austria, Holland, Hungary, parts of Eastern Europe, Scotland, Canada, and the United States.

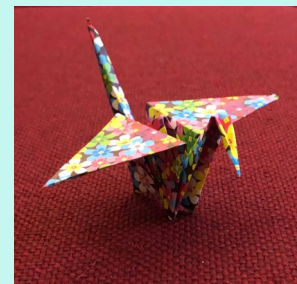
This Glorious Eastertide

Have you noticed all the colorful accents that have been showing up in the sanctuary? Since Easter we've added one new symbol every week to help us celebrate the joy of resurrection. Each Sunday will have something new until we come to Pentecost – the birthday of the church.

Look for:

Origami cranes from Easter Sunday:

These delicate birds remind us that when Jesus died and rose again, he wasn't saving us so that we could go back to our lives as usual. He was teaching our souls to fly so that we could follow him to heaven.



Rocks from April 11th:

We know that God is our Rock and our Redeemer. That means that even when our faith feels shaky and we don't know what to believe, we trust that God is our foundation, our refuge, and our constant source of strength that never leaves us and never lets us go.

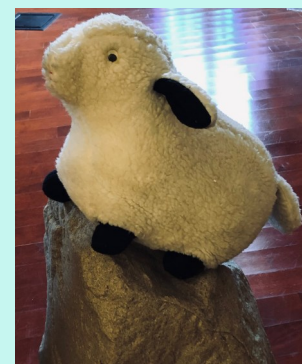


Campfire from April 18th:

Jesus appeared to the disciples, roasted a fish on a fire, and ate with them. He wasn't a distant memory from the past – he was real and present with them. He did not stop at bread and wine – he gave them the fullness of that which sustains us. He unites us with him and gives us his words to lead us forward.



Sheep from April 25th: Jesus is our Good Shepherd and we are the sheep of his flock. Calling us sheep doesn't mean Jesus thinks we're weak or dumb. It means we are a thriving community that loves each other, that sticks up for each other, that honors everything that makes us different. We can live and grow because we know the Good Shepherd keeps us safe and gives us a home together.



Vines from May 2nd: Jesus said, “I am the vine, you are the branches.” As part of the branches, we are connected at our core by Jesus’ love. As we continue to grow and flourish after a long hibernation, we know that we can do things together that we never could do on our own – and that what affects one of us affects all of us.



Chocolate Hearts from May 9th: As we remember Mother’s Day in worship, we honor God as the Author and Source of all. Just as God gives life to all creation and sustains us each day, so, too, does a mother’s heart work and wait, hope and pray for life all around. Living into the hope of Christ gives each of us strength to nurture this heart within ourselves, whether we have children or not.



Mission News

john clawson

Our **Backpacks 4 Bixby** program continues each week by supporting 61 children from four Bixby schools. Thanks to all the volunteers that have kept us going by purchasing, packing and delivering food bags during challenging times.

I also want to give a shout out to Kate Hanson for starting and maintaining our **Trinity Blessing Box** that is located by the front door of the church. As the sign says, “take what you need...give what you can.”

Such a wonderful idea to help people that are struggling with food insecurities. Our community truly appreciates what we are doing.



May Lectionary Readings

5th Sunday of Easter—May 2nd

Acts 8:26-40
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

6th Sunday of Easter— May 9th

Acts 10:44-48
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

7th Sunday of Easter— May 16th

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

Day of Pentecost— May 23rd

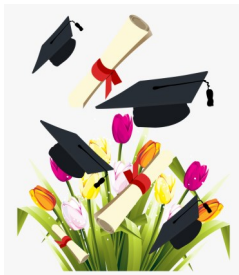
Acts 2:1-21
John 15:26-27
John 16:4b-15

Trinity Sunday— May 30th

Isaiah 6:1-8
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17



| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Kim Campbell | 05/11 |
| Leah Wagner | 05/11 |
| Ann Frazier | 05/15 |
| Annemarie Kessler | 05/19 |
| Mitchell Sanstra | 05/28 |
| Sarah Rayment | 05/30 |
| Scott Wigton | 05/31 |



Congratulations!

Congratulations to our 2021 Graduates:

Jonathan Wigton
Luke Wigton
Matthew Sanstra



Deepest Sympathies

Prayers for the Wasserman family

The Reverend Marney Ault Wasserman, 71, retired pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the wife of former Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery Executive Presbyter Dave Wasserman, passed away on April 19, 2021, at her home, surrounded by family and singing. Please join us in praying for the Wasserman family and the many lives she touched.

Trinity Presbyterian Church
9303 E. 111th St. S.
Bixby, OK 74008

Phone: 918.369.3690

Fax: 918.369.3890

E-mail: trinity@olp.net
