



# spirit

NEWSLETTER

## ***The Monthly Newsletter Publication of Triune Lutheran Church “Set Free to Serve One Another”***

### **March 2020**

Address:  
4810 West Mill Road  
Broadview Heights, OH 44147

Phone: 440-526-3676  
Website: triunelutheran.com  
E-mail: triune948@gmail.com  
Office Hours:  
Monday & Wednesday, 10AM-1PM

Worship Schedule:  
Saturdays 5PM (contemporary)  
Sundays 11AM (traditional)

Ministers.....All People  
Pastor.....Brad Ross  
Administrative Assistant.....Jan Piskac  
Organist.....Edith Schatt  
Council President.....Dale Kirk  
Council Vice-President....Bonnie Piskac  
Council Secretary.....Bill Weidman  
Council Treasurer.....Jack Schwab

Sisters & brothers in Christ,

When I was in a college choir, I still remember our director speaking of another college choir as a rather...snobbish, elitist vocal entourage, but all while letting us know we were not quite to their level. It was the St. Olaf Choir from St. Olaf College, an ELCA affiliated institution located about an hour south of the Twin Cities in Northfield, Minnesota. I first saw them in concert several years ago, hoping the lightning wouldn't strike me from my previous choral director's memory on my way out of the auditorium. It turned out to be fine. Evidently, we were all part of the same ministry of music, after all.

So, when it was made known their 2020 Winter Tour would make a stop in Cleveland last week, I decided to coax Sarah into joining. The St. Olaf Choir most certainly kicked it up a notch in the mindset of using music as a ministry operation, as opposed to, simply, showing the audience how impressive 70+ young voices can sound. It's as if they decided to be prophetic in speaking directly to current issues of social justice from caring for the Creation to civil rights, as if music can stir our soul to be the "living notes," as the director, Anton Armstrong, so prophesied that night. Nevertheless, another song that struck me at a greater spiritual depth was, perhaps, not as convicting and thereby jarring as some of the other Amos and Jeremiah-esque proclamations, but still just as real and moving.

Earlier that day, Edith and I led a short worship at the Oaks of Brecksville. We do this once a month, and let's just say, most of the group do not remember us from the month, or ever, before. Also, more often than not, there is usually one adult child of one of the residents in the room as well, accompanying their beloved parent that particular day; one of their children who has witnessed their loved one gradually...not be the same anymore, as dementia or Alzheimer's invades with a heart-wrenching toll. The song the St. Olaf Choir offered with a ministerial tone of humility and gentleness was "When Memory Fades" (the



Find us on Facebook at:  
Triune Lutheran Church



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

text of which is in our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal, #792, but the arrangement we heard is quite more powerful, with all due respect). The text from Mary Louise Bringle, a professor in North Carolina and an elder in the Presbyterian Church, was written for a friend whose mother was enduring the disease of Alzheimer's.

*When memory fades and recognition falters,  
When eyes we love grow dim, and minds confused,  
Speak to our souls of love that never alters;  
Speak to our hearts by pain and fear abused.  
O God of life and healing peace,  
Empower us with patient courage, by your grace infused.*

*As the frailness grows, and youthful strengths diminish,  
In weary arms, which worked their earnest fill.  
Your aging servants labor now to finish  
Their earthly tasks as fits your mystery's will.  
We grieve their waning, yet rejoice, believing,  
Your arms, unwearied, shall uphold us still.*

*Within your spirit, goodness lives unfading.  
The past and future mingle into one.  
All joys remain, un-shadowed light pervading.  
No valued deed will ever be undone.  
Your mind enfolds all finite acts and offerings.  
Held in your heart, our deathless life is won.*

So incredibly much is packed into these words, combined with the notes, for those who make the daily trek to a nearby care facility to see their loved one. I only know of this from not-nearly-as-frequent of encounters with congregation members, but for those who know first-hand what their always-strong, always-witty, always-mentoring, beloved used to be; it is a journey that seems to empty the entire emotional and spiritual once-thought-to-be bottomless tank.

Of course, from the comparatively distant pastoral perspective, I can witness grace. I can witness someone coming in with an unbelievable relentless showing of love and compassion for whom is still their mother, father, sister, brother, etc., no matter the state of memory, and the ensuing frustration. I can witness the Gospel coming to life: the Gospel that proclaims that God's relentless love insists on loving us no matter our state of living; that, no matter how it ends, "Held in [God's] heart, our deathless life is won."

Evidently, music still has something to say, something to sing to our current state of living affairs. Music can have its share of performance style of arts, but it can most certainly prophesy, too. It can most certainly bring God's perspective to life, a perspective we desperately yearn to continue to be proclaimed long after the biblical cannon has, supposedly, completed long ago. And, quite honestly, sometimes we need help in finding the words we cannot quite grasp amidst the most trying days: "We grieve their waning, yet rejoicing, believing, [God's] arms, unwearied, shall uphold us still." Thanks be to God, that those divine always-uplifting arms will never, ever let us go. Amen (so let it be)!

In Christ,  
Pastor Brad

To watch the St. Olaf Choir (2019) sing "When Memory Fades,"  
please go to YouTube.com and search "When Memory Fades St. Olaf."



Our sisters and brothers in Christ of The Lutheran Church of the Covenant will be hosting midweek Lenten services using a prayer and music setting of Holden Evening Prayer. These Wednesday evening worship opportunities begin with a soup supper at 6PM.

March 4 @ Covenant

March 11 @ Covenant

March 18 @ Covenant

March 25 @ Master

April 1 @ Master

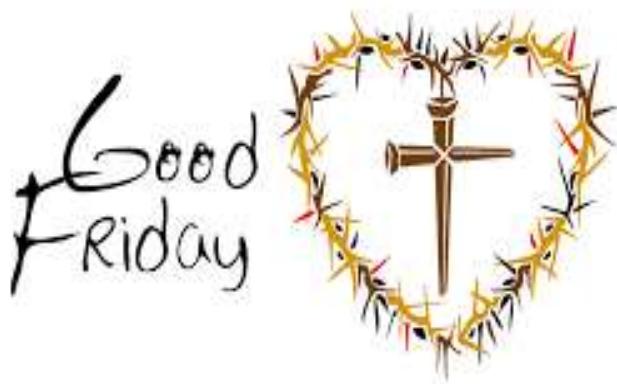
The Lutheran Church of the Covenant

19000 Libby Rd., Maple Heights

Lutheran Church of the Master

860 Northfield Rd. Bedford

We are asking well in advance of Good Friday, April 10, for those who wish to attend, if you prefer a 1pm or 5pm service. Please contact the church office to let us know your preference by March 13.





We ask you to keep the following sisters and brothers in Christ in your prayers:

Jenny Adams	Tim Mize
Rosa Arias	Mary Phillips
Bev Deitrick	Hazel Schwab
Bill Deitrick	Courtney Spencer
Cathy Gallagher	Cicellia Taurus
Richard Jakubcin	George Tomaselli
John Kurtz	Martha Wasson
Jean Kurtz	Mardell Weiss
Matthew Loede	Clara Wilcox
Marlin Loede	Dave Wilcox

If you wish to send any cards, please send them, or drop them off, to the church office, and we will be sure to deliver them.



4    Emily Zvosec  
5    Bev Deitrick  
13   Meghan Schatt  
28   Matthew Schatt

21 Bill & Bev Deitrick



Monday Bible study/discussion group will continue to study and discuss Paul's letter to the Romans through March and April.

JOIN US ANY TIME!  
Monday's @ 1:00 PM

## **Minutes of Triune Lutheran Church Council Meeting of 10 February 2020**

Meeting opened at 6:10 PM with a prayer by Pastor Brad.

Minutes of last meeting of 13 January 2020 were reviewed.

Jack reported a checking account balance of \$3,025 and a Mutual Fund balance of \$747,753. The securities from the Messinger family bequest are established with Thrivent in a brokerage account. The present balance in this account is \$102,118. Jack reported that, with no need for more, we are going down to one Sam's Club card.

Jack, also, reported lower than usual snow plowing cost so far this winter and no present maintenance issues, except a plumbing problem in the women's restroom.

Pastor reminded us of the service time of 5 PM on Ash Wednesday, and that the Good Friday service time of 1 PM or 5 PM is yet to be decided, and that this question might be raised at the congregational meeting on 01 March.

We have begun to make sheets of with hymns for the services in large type. There are not large type hymn books available. We discussed the problems in doing this. Bill is the only one using these and we do not know how many other would find them helpful or necessary. Bill pointed out that the breaking of words into syllables to match the cadence of the music makes hymn books in small type particularly difficult for people with impaired vision.

Pastor reported that we have a request for two representatives from our congregation to attend a meeting at the Lutheran Home at Concord Reserve on 29 February. There is to be a vote on approval of decision to organizationally join with a similar group in Cincinnati, Ohio, for the purpose of operational cost efficiency. Dale told us of past contacts with them and of his tour of their facility.

Pastor informed us that we have an invitation to attend a Passover Seder Dinner at the Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple in Beachwood, which would be on March 24. It was recalled that Pastor Kukelhan had, in the past, taken some of our young people to this dinner.

Pastor Brad told us that our directory is being updated and discussed several of the changes.

Meeting closed at 6:52 PM

Next Meeting at 6:00 PM Monday 06 April

## ***My Take: The Ethics of a Digital World***

*Theologian reflects on living together in the digital*

*(originally published February 6, 2020 on LivingLutheran.org)*



I was convinced that new digital tools such as smartphone tablets were having negative effects on our ability to relate meaningfully to one another.

Then I got sick. Really sick. I was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and, in a matter of months, went from a healthy and active wife, mother and professor to an oncology patient with a broken back and a lousy prognosis.

On the day I was diagnosed, my brother set up a page on the social networking website CaringBridge to keep my friends and family updated on my prognosis. If I hadn't been on so much pain medication, I may not have let him set up such a site, skeptical as I was about digital technology's ability to foster meaningful connections.

But one of the great surprises of my life—in addition to continuing to live with incurable cancer—has been the vast care, love and support that have come my way through digital means. I've been shocked by the communion of saints who grew up around me and my family through a website. And my experiences with life-giving care made possible through digital technology have prompted me to reconsider our collective relationship to technology and how it affects our life together.

In considering this, it's helpful to differentiate our relationships with technology. On one side are the "technological determinists," who believe that technology determines who we are and what we do. A friend who is the mother of a teenager recently complained to me that "phones are evil," suggesting that the technology itself is responsible for distracting us from one another and what matters most.

On the other side are the "technological instrumentalists," who insist that our devices are merely tools of communication that we decide whether and how to use. There's evidence that, as determinists argue, technology influences the choices we make, but my experiences receiving healing care and support through digital technology have taught me that we have some degree of agency in how we use these tools.

That agency is what we need to think more collectively and expansively about how to live well together in the digital age.

## *The body of Christ and technology*

Because the rules on using digital tools to enhance our relationships with one another have yet to be written, we need robust conversations about how to do so. As a theologian, I see institutions of higher education and communities of faith as uniquely positioned to take the lead in such conversations.

We like to refer to our young people as “digital natives,” as they are more at home in our new technological worlds. Yet educational systems the world over require years of formal education in a student’s native tongue so they can learn the internal logic of a language and how to use it well. While schools now provide education on the technical aspects of digital engagement, our young people need more opportunities to reflect on its ethical dimensions.

Schools and religious communities rightly condemn cyberbullying and sexting, but where are we talking about the ways digital communication enhances—as well as detracts from—building and maintaining meaningful relationships? Colleges and universities claim to shape young people for ethical lives of leadership and service; the time is ripe for these institutions to take leading roles in forming ethical users of our new digital tools.

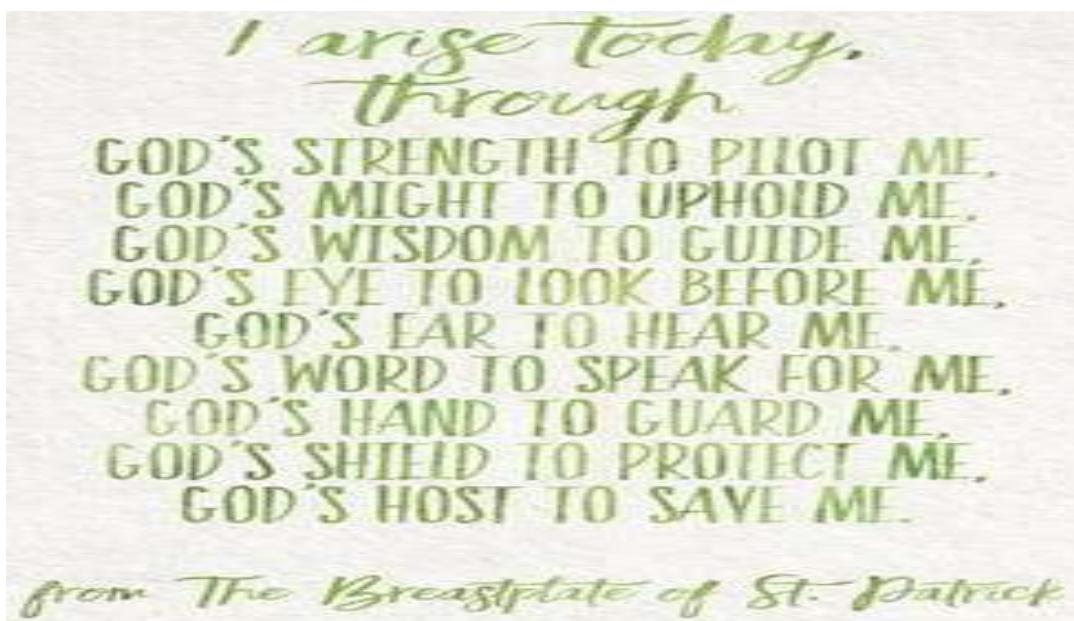
Lest we think that ethical use of digital devices is a problem concerning only “the young,” plenty of studies indicate that large numbers of teens wish the adults in their lives weren’t so addicted to their digital devices. Many older people might benefit from reflecting on how we interact with digital technology.

Because of the intergenerational nature of many religious communities, they can create spaces for thoughtful reflection on what our life together in a digital age should look like.

One of the most enduring images of what it means to be church is the apostle Paul’s image of the body of Christ. In his letter to the Corinthian church, Paul wrote that the body of Christ is a community of people who bear one another’s burdens and give special attention to those who are suffering (1 Corinthians 12:12-26).

Part of our vocation in a digital world is to discern together how we can use our technology to better live out, and live up to, being the body of Christ with one another and the world.

*Deanna A. Thompson is director of the Lutheran Center for Faith, Values, and Community and the Martin E. Marty Regents Chair in Religion and the Academy at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn.*



# March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <b>WORSHIP @11 AM</b>  Congregational Meeting @ 5pm	2 <b>Bible Study @ 1 pm</b>  <b>Oaks service @ 3:15 pm</b>	3  AA @ 7pm	4 Soup Supper The Lutheran Church of the Covenant @ 6	5  AA @ 8 pm	6	7 <b>WORSHIP @ 5 PM</b> <b>PASTOR BRAD</b>
8 <b>WORSHIP @11 AM</b> Daylight Savings (Spring forward 1 hr!)	9 <b>Bible Study @ 1 pm</b>	10  AA @ 7pm	11 Soup Supper The Lutheran Church of the Covenant @ 6	12  AA @ 8 pm	13	14 <b>WORSHIP @ 5 PM</b> <b>TIM MIZE</b>
15 <b>WORSHIP @11 AM</b>	16 <b>Bible Study @ 1 pm</b>	17 <b>St. Patrick's Day</b>  AA @ 7pm	18 Soup Supper The Lutheran Church of the Covenant @ 6	19  AA @ 8 pm	20 <b>First day of Spring</b>	21 <b>WORSHIP @ 5 PM</b> <b>PASTOR BRAD</b>
22 <b>WORSHIP @11 AM</b>	23 <b>Bible Study @ 1 pm</b>	24  AA @ 7pm	25 Soup Supper Lutheran Church of the Master @ 6	26  AA @ 8 pm	27	28 <b>WORSHIP @ 5 PM</b> <b>TIM MIZE</b>
29 <b>WORSHIP @11 AM</b>	30 <b>Bible Study @ 1 pm</b>	31  AA @ 7pm				



If you have something you would like to put in the newsletter, please let us know by email, written letter, phone call or stopping by the office.