

spirit

NEWSLETTER

The Monthly Newsletter Publication of Triune Lutheran Church
“Set Free to Serve One Another”
May 2022

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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.....Heidi Bailey
Council Treasurer.....Jack Schwab



Siblings in Christ of Triune,

For the last several years, Sarah and I have had this chalkboard calendar, and it hangs in the middle of our kitchen, right alongside our most frequent comings and goings, whether that be out the door, or attempting to settle in for the evening, or getting bottles for the diaper dandies, or whatever else. I always appreciate the opportunity to not only erase the previous month's worth of appointments and meetings, but to start anew with the next collection of weeks, almost conveying a sense of hope and new life with each day chalked in with my rather...imperfect hand-writing (Sarah's penmanship is lightyears advanced in comparison to mine, for sure).



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Triune Lutheran Church



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

Now, even before last summer, we knew life did not always go according to plan, but if this young dynamic duo has taught us anything, it's that no matter how many plans we make on that chalkboard calendar, much of it will not happen as we envisioned it. And yet, we know first-hand that hope and new life can certainly emerge amidst the unplanned times. Joy and beauty can burst through during what may often be perceived as complete and utter chaos. After all, sometimes that's when the most contagious giggles and heartwarming smiles take over that reel you in to make you completely forget about everything that did not take place as was preferred.

It continues to be a learning experience/adventure for me. I know my way of going about life tends to be of the more structured and organized sort, and yes, that can still be helpful in certain aspects. When it comes to our experience with God, we can still connect with the Divine in the structure of daily devotions, weekly public worship, or however often we pray, including a rather frequent repetition of the Lord's Prayer, just to name a few. Then, again, we can most certainly feel God's presence in the randomness of our daily living, too, whether that be something that may pop up on our computer screen that might compel us to see God in others, or birds chirping amidst a sunrise vista, begging us to take all of life in with a joyous sigh too deep for words.

This isn't exactly a novel idea. This has been written and spoken about before, but sometimes it's helpful to be reminded of the immense capability of God, including through the Risen Lord, who empowers us to not only experience the Divine from our comfy chairs at home or the same pew we've sat in for decades, but in well...anywhere in this world. And not only that, but that this God empowers us to share the joy and wonder of a death-defying boundless love Messiah with those we see like clockwork, and those who randomly pop into our life. It's a rather precious both-and we cannot take for granted, because this God loves this world far too much to stay just in a few spots on consistent basis. Granted, God will be in those places, too, but also in the ones we least expect. Thanks be to God, indeed! Amen!

In Christ,
Pastor Brad

As we celebrate Pentecost Sunday on June 5, including hearing the account from Acts 2 with the speaking of numerous languages, we will include a time to sing "For the Healing of the Nations," as we have often done for World Communion Sunday in October. We are fully aware of many nations who desperately need the refrain of this moving song: "Peace be yours." And so, we will do our humble part on Pentecost Sunday.



PREPARING FOR A NEW GOD-THING

As we discussed at our last congregational meeting, we have decided to put together a small task force of Triune members, who wish to come up with new ideas of what we can do as a Triune family for the sustainability and ministry of our congregation. We hope to start these gatherings soon, as we throw out new ideas together. If you are interested in serving in this way or you have any questions, please let Pastor Brad know.

We ask you to keep the following siblings in Christ in your prayers:

Niki Grigsby
Jan Halishak
Richard Jakubcin
Dan Maldovan
Jill Maldovan
Gloria Roderick
Dennis Schatt

Achim Schnaebel
Annie Slaughter
Stacy Szendel
Mardell Weiss
Clara Wilcox
Dave Wilcox

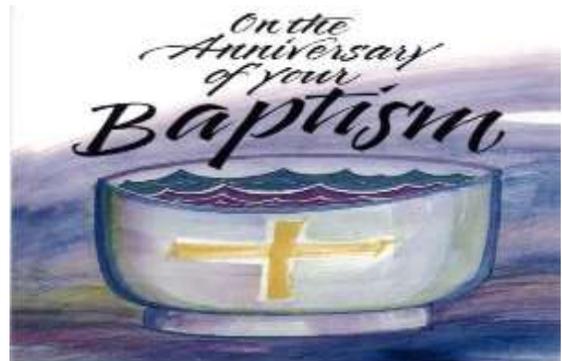


If you wish to send any cards, please send them, or drop them off, to the church office, and we will be sure to deliver them.



- 3 Charlotte Jackson
- 5 Jack Bailey
- 13 Evan Schwab
- 17 Dale Kirk

- 1 Carol Dorsey
- 11 Matthew Schatt



The Monday discussion group

We'll be continuing our discussion of "DISAPPOINTMENT WITH GOD: Three questions no one asks aloud" by Philip Yancey.

A prayer for Mother's Day

Lord, we remember the mothers
who have gone before us.

**For their love, sacrifice, struggle
and joy, we thank you.**

Lord, we remember the mothers of
Scripture who are a part of our story
as we are a part of your story.

**For their courage, faith, love and
fierceness, we thank you.**

Lord, we remember those who have not
given birth to us, but are mothers to us.

**For their gift of themselves that they
have given, we thank you.**

For the women who struggle with
fertility, for those women whom
society labels as less in their childlessness,
for those women who have lost children.

**For their tears, for their strength,
for their wisdom, for their lives,
we thank you.**

In your name we pray. Amen.

by Claire Schoepp



MEMORIAL DAY PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

On this Memorial Day, we pray for those who
courageously laid down their lives for the cause
of freedom. May the example of their sacrifice
inspire in us the selfless love of your Son, our
Lord Jesus Christ.

Bless the families of our fallen troops,
and fill their homes and their lives with
your strength and peace.

Embolden us to answer the call to work
for peace and justice, and thus, seek
an end to violence and conflict
around the globe.

We pray through Christ our Lord.

Amen



Repentance, Reconciliation, Restoration: A Missionary Update from Slovakia

April 1, 2022

The following is a newsletter update from Rev. Kyle & Anna Svenningsen, ELCA missionaries in Slovakia.

Greetings dear partners in ministry!

We are writing to you from Bratislava, Slovakia. At Bratislava International Church, our theme for Lent is 'Walking with Jesus: Repentance, Reconciliation, Restoration.' This theme was chosen before the war in Ukraine began and it has taken on a whole new meaning in these last four weeks. Not only is there need for repentance, reconciliation, and restoration with our Creator; but also with one another.

Someone once said, "Sometimes in the worst of times, you see the best in people." Despite how the world aches each day from more news of innocent lives being destroyed in Ukraine, we also see God at work in so many ways as a result of this war. We see people from around the world opening up their homes to Ukrainian refugees. We see donation centers overflowing with goods to be shipped to Ukraine or for refugees to pick up supplies as needed. We see free transportation offered for any Ukrainian refugees from the surrounding countries as they flee in search of safety. This is just a snapshot of the many other efforts we see from so many kind people. It seems the world is certainly walking with the people of Ukraine during these dark days, just like we believe Jesus is walking with them too.

We have been blessed to be able to buy goods and deliver them to donation centers. These donation centers put out new lists daily that call for items of greatest need. Kyle has volunteered at a donation center that organizes thousands of goods from clothing, to toiletries, to non-perishables and more. Some of these goods are shipped directly to Ukraine and other goods shared with refugees in our own community. Many of our friends here have opened up their homes to refugee families, people they've never met but happily welcomed. Others in our congregation have paid for hotel rooms that serve as temporary housing for refugee families.

The main train station in Bratislava has an 'Info Point' setup for all the Ukrainian refugees arriving there. Ukrainians can travel for free on regional trains and other public transportation in all of the neighboring countries. Some refugees have attended worship with us and we have helped with putting some up in hotel rooms. Many are unsure of where they are going, or where they might want to settle, and are unsure of when and if they will be able to return to their home.

Once they claim refugee status/seek asylum in a country, they cannot leave that country. It is a big decision for refugees to make when they are already overwhelmed from fleeing their war torn country. Many are mothers with children and the elderly who have just left behind the men in their life; husbands, fathers, brothers, uncles, etc. These people are simply overwhelmed and exhausted. At the train station, they often collapse from pure exhaustion as they exit the trains. There is always a crisis team available to help with psychological and medical needs. At the Info Point, there are also people from the city office ready to offer assistance with housing, legal aid, and information about the city and the immigration process. A local cell phone company has even offered free SIM cards so refugees can use their cell phones.

There are two waiting rooms designated for the refugees; a family room and a general waiting room. In them are free microwave meals, coffee, tea, mattresses, blankets and more. The family room is mainly for mothers and children to use as they wait for their next train or need a place to spend the night. There are mattresses, travel cribs, high chairs, changing tables, toys, a TV with kids shows and movies, and couches. There are also free clothes, strollers and baby carriers for them to take if they need them. It is a helpful place of rest for these tired mothers and families.

Anna organized a group from church to clean, disinfect, and organize these waiting rooms. They watched as families came and went, finding hope in the excited faces of children when they saw all the toys. It seemed to be for them a sense of something familiar in an unfamiliar time and place. They were even able to play with the children, and give just a moment's break to their mothers. It is almost unbelievable for us to imagine what they are going through, but then we witness it with our own eyes. The strength and resilience we see in these mothers is truly inspiring. The bravery of the men who stay behind to defend their country, their home, leaves us in awe. We've heard their stories first-hand and see them walking with Jesus in bold ways. But most of all, we see Jesus in them and their experience, and our call to walk with them.

As we journey through the rest of this Lenten season, we invite you to notice with us all the ways in which the Ukrainian people walk with and embody Jesus. Be bold in your own response to walk with and embody Jesus for those in need in your community too. And most of all, we invite you to join us in unceasing prayer for peace to rise from the ashes of this war as soon as possible. Pray with us that leaders may see reason and the extreme toll this is taking on so many innocent people. Thank you for your concern and prayers. Your support carries us through each day. Know that even though we do it 5,000 miles apart, we are walking with you through this trying time and praying for you every step of the way.

Lutheran Disaster Response is responding to the humanitarian crisis in Eastern Europe in partnership with the Lutheran World Federation and other local and global partners. For more information, please visit ldr.org.

The Feast Day of St. Matthias



Feb. 24 is the traditional feast day of St. Matthias. In the 1960s, the Roman Catholic Church moved his feast day to May 14, so that we're celebrating his life in a month that makes more chronological sense. Matthias was the apostle chosen to replace Judas Iscariot, who committed suicide after he realized what his betrayal had wrought; so it makes sense to celebrate his life after Easter. Eastern Orthodox believers will observe his feast day on Aug. 9.

I side with the traditionalists who will celebrate in late February. I like this feast day showing up on the heels of Christmastide. I need this reminder that we don't all need to be Mary, who was tapped for greatness in God's plan very early in her adult years.

We see a similar dynamic in our stories of Jesus. The named disciples are the ones who committed early in Christ's ministry. Who were the unnamed ones who took longer to decide?

Of course, as someone who spent many years studying texts in graduate school, I will always wonder at what gospel revisions went on in the early church. Was the inner circle really that tight? Was it really only 12? Was it really only men? We know that Jesus had a sympathy toward women that was uncommon for his time. Would he really have excluded them from the inner circle?

Then I think of the logistics of being one of the 12 – all that travel, all those difficult circumstances. Maybe it was kinder of Jesus not to call women to be part of the inner circle. If you go back to the sayings of Jesus, it's clear that he doesn't see hierarchy in the same way that humans do – he clearly mocked the idea that some disciples are more chosen than others.

So, would Matthias have even seen his appointment as a promotion? Maybe it's just our later proclivity to make lists that sees this development as a promotion. Of course, there is plenty of evidence that shows that the disciples shared our proclivities toward hierarchy and list making.

I think of Matthias, patiently waiting, following Christ, never knowing the outcome. In that way, he's the patron saint of us all. We follow Christ, not knowing whether we'll be chosen for some superhuman greatness or whether we'll be called to stay put, quietly ministering the people around us.

Some of us believe that God has a plan for us, while others believe that God, like a master weaver or gardener, will use us where we are. Some of us believe that the universe is essentially chaotic, but we are not excused from God's mission of kingdom building.

Some of us know that we cannot possibly comprehend any of this, and we know that we are lucky that God does not depend on our puny imaginations.

Many of us, too, probably feel like we're living life in the margins. Our jobs are not glamorous. Our churches may be small. If we do social justice work at all, we may wonder why we bother. We try to be the light of the world, but it's easy to feel that light flickering.

St. Matthias reminds us that we may yet be promoted. And in the meantime, there is work to be done, far from the spotlight. All of it is important, as we serve the greater good, as we answer the call that God has issued.

This article originally appeared February 24, 2015, through Living Lutheran. For more resources for the journey of faith, please visit LivingLutheran.org

Kristin Berkey-Abbott is a lifelong Lutheran, a college teacher and department head. She has taught a variety of English and creative writing classes for the last 20 years. For Kristin Berkey-Abbott's blog, "Liberation Theology Lutheran," at Lutheran Blogs, please visit LivingLutheran.org.

On Sunday, May 1, as you will see below in the calendar, worship will start at 11:30am instead of 11am, so that Pastor Brad may stay longer at Covenant for their congregational meeting. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, and greatly appreciate your understanding!

May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 WORSHIP @11:30 AM	2 Bible Study @ 1 pm	3 AA @ 7pm	4	5 AA @ 8 pm	6	7 WORSHIP @ 5 PM TIM MIZE
8 WORSHIP @11 AM Mother's Day	9 Bible Study @ 1 pm	10 AA @ 7pm	11	12 AA @ 8 pm	13	14 WORSHIP @ 5 PM PASTOR BRAD
15 WORSHIP @11 AM	16 Bible Study @ 1 pm	17 AA @ 7pm	18	19 AA @ 8 pm	20	21 WORSHIP @ 5 PM TIM MIZE
22 WORSHIP @11 AM	23 Bible Study @ 1 pm	24 AA @ 7pm	25	26 AA @ 8 pm	27	28 WORSHIP @ 5 PM PASTOR BRAD
29 ASCENSION SUNDAY WORSHIP @11 AM	30 Memorial Day	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.