

Trinity News

Volume MMXXIII No. 5 ✦ MAY 2023

Keeping Time

Cantor Mark Mummert

I just returned from 4 days away at the Valparaiso Institute of Liturgical Studies in Indiana, where the theme of the conference was *Finding Our Rhythm: In the Fullness of Time*. The days of the event were filled with plenary lectures, workshops, and worship centered on the way the church keeps time, especially by the way the church worships.

One of the keynote speakers engaged the question of time by unpacking the way memory functions in the life of Christians. From that presentation, I was mostly drawn to this quotation:

*So much of the trouble of this world is caused by memories,
for we only remember half.* (Apsley Cherry-Garrad)

I was struck by this quotation for, as I gained an overview of my life and experience, but also as I considered the lives and times of many other people and groups I knew, I found the quotation to be strikingly true: *we only remember half*.

Some of us remember the good half. Some of us remember the bad half. Many of us remember some portions of both the good and the bad of our memories. It may be that your personality tends to favor either good or bad memories.

I considered this truth with regard to our congregation's celebration of our 75th Anniversary. What parts of our history do you remember? Which parts have you forgotten? If you are a newer member of Trinity Church, which of the memories being shared are interesting to you? Which memories seem nostalgic or driven by fear? Which memories are driven by hope or discernment? How does your memory intersect with the memories others have?

Because I regard the challenge that memory poses us, I am more inclined to focus on the future rather than memories of the past. I find this especially helpful when considering the church and ministry going forward into the future. We are not able to reclaim a previous time or make things like they once were. Instead, we can look honestly at our present and plan for a future that is free from nostalgia and honest about potential and possibilities. I hope that this is what our anniversary celebration will allow us to do: free us up to imagine God's future among us as we seek to engage God's mission in the world.

In the meantime, help me welcome Elder Calvin Cummings to Trinity Church! Elder Calvin will be doing his required internship with us this summer. (Even though his title is "elder," he is super young! The title "elder" is used in his church in the same way that titles like "cantor" and "pastor" work in our church.) Elder Calvin is the Assistant Director for Religion and Spiritual Life at WPI. He has a wide range of congregational experience, so his time with us will be for him to dive deeper into congregational life, and for him to teach, preach, and lead among us. I'm excited to see what Elder Calvin will do among us this summer, as we move forward boldly into a future unencumbered by half-memories that hold us back.

At the Institute of Liturgical Studies, the Tuesday evening memorial concert included J. S. Bach's cantata 106, *Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit*, or "God's Time is the Best Time." The cantata was composed by Bach for a funeral, and in the libretto of the cantata, Bach has his listeners meditate on God's time in relation to life and death. God's time is often not our time: a death comes sooner than we expect or are ready for; we discern God calling us to a new venture before we seem ready or inclined; God seems to be saying "Stop," when we feel ready to Go. God seems to be saying "Go" when we have been ready to Stop. No matter the time, God's or ours, we trust that God goes with us into the future, that we can be bold to remember our past with confidence in God's promises to us.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT – KAREN COUTURIER

Sharing briefly some highlights of our April 17, 2023 Council meeting:

- This month Council had lengthy and thoughtful discussion about building use decisions. Moving forward, we are learning more about the scope of our responsibility in developing building use contracts with community partners. We considered information from a memo from Fletcher Tilton regarding the tax implications of non-profit vs for profit organizations. We are consulting with our accountant for additional information and clarification.
- With the closing of the TLC Preschool scheduled for the end of June 2023 we're focused on finding a new organization to use the space. Ideally, we would like to have a new tenant soon. We are discerning what is most important to us related to our values and mission.
- We are considering a proposal from the Clemente organization but learned they will not be ready to move until the Summer of 2024. Members of the Council plan to meet with Clemente Coordinator and Advisory Board to clarify details of their proposal and explore this developing partnership.

In the meantime, the Council decided to cast a wider net and request Kelleher and Sadowsky open up advertising to Nonprofit organizations for short- or long-term use of the preschool space.

- In reviewing our budget and financial picture we are reminded that pledge income alone does not cover the cost of running the church. Trinity depends on Pledge income, building use income and use of the Mission Endowment Fund in meeting our expenses. The Finance committee and Council are presenting a session on May 21 to discuss the use of the Mission Endowment Fund. The input of the congregation is vital in making choices about how we use the MEF. The Council and Finance committee welcome everyone's input in order to make good decisions that reflect the priorities of the congregation. Please plan to attend or speak with one of the Finance committee or Council members.

A reminder that Council meetings are open to all members of the congregation. Agenda is prepared by the Executive committee the week prior to the Council meeting. Please feel free to speak with a Council member if you have something to bring up. Our next Council meeting is May 8, 2023 @ 6:45 p.m.

In a recent conversation with a member of our congregation I was reminded to keep stating our focus on the CAT goals and priorities:

1. Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.
2. Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.
3. Work to renew and revitalize the community around the church by building coalitions with partners that share this vision and commitment. When involved in any church activity, I find it helpful to ask the question, how does this activity, meeting or project address our CAT goals?

As people of faith, we can look to our Mission Statement, "To Welcome, Proclaim and Serve in Christ's Name" for guiding our choices and direction.

PASTOR PIPHO'S SABBATICAL: JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2023

During the months of July, August, and September 2023, Pastor Nathan will be stepping away from pastoral duties at Trinity for a period of intentional Sabbath rest. The three-month sabbatical was approved by the Trinity Congregational Council at its October 2022 meeting, after Pastor Nathan consulted the Personnel Committee, in accordance with the Trinity Sabbatical Policy which grants a sabbatical leave after every four years of service. Pastor Nathan is in his seventh year of ministry at Trinity.

The New England Synod encourages congregations to provide a sabbatical renewal leave of three consecutive months after every four years of service in order that the pastor may engage in a period of prayer, study, rest, reflection, and preparation for the next season of ministry of the life of the congregation.

What does this mean for you?

- **Sunday worship** – A full schedule of substitute pastoral ministry staff has already been arranged for the Sundays Pastor Nathan is away. Pastor Cliff Gerber will preach and preside on a number of Sundays. To coincide with Pastor Nathan's sabbatical study focus, Lutheran pastors of color have been invited to preach and preside, including pastors funded by a grant Trinity received from the "*I Have a Dream Fund*" of the New England Synod. Additionally, Pastors Ruth Popkin and Stephanie Pope will supply preach and preside on July 2 and July 16 as part of the 75th Anniversary Celebration. With these pastors preaching and presiding Trinity's tradition of quality worship will continue uninterrupted.
- **Pastoral Emergencies** – Cantor Mark Mummert and Jena Hill will be the point of first contact for any pastoral emergencies. They will be supported by Pastor Cliff Gerber who will be available to respond when the services of a pastor are required, especially for bereavement and funeral ministry. With the team of Cantor Mark, Jena Hill, and Pastor Cliff Gerber, available for members of Trinity the pastoral care needs of Trinity members will continue to be met. Additionally, Pastor Ed Sproul will be available to the staff for any personnel issues that may arise.
- **Ministry Programming** – As part of the Congregational Assessment Tool (C.A.T.) survey Trinity took in February and March 2022, Pastor Sara Anderson, Associate to Bishop James Hazelwood, pointed out that the healthiest congregations are those who have moved from being "clergy-focused" to "ministry-focused." Pastor Nathan's absence in September will require Council and Ministry Team Chairs to step up and kick-off ministry programming for the 2023-2024 program year. With Trinity's lay leaders working with the professional staff and volunteers Trinity's ministry programming will continue uninterrupted.

Please watch for more details over the next weeks and months for more information related to the sabbatical. Please speak with Pastor Nathan or Council President Karen Couturier if you have specific questions or concerns.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS A SEARCH FOR A NEW ASSISTANT TREASURER – ROZ HORN, CHAIR

Trinity is in need of a new Assistant Treasurer. Our current Assistant Treasurer, Scott Baeder, will be stepping down from the position assisting our Treasurer, Nancy Fontneau later this year. The Finance Committee is beginning our search with you, the congregation, to find out if one of you might be willing to step into this role. Scott has offered to continue working with the entire finance team to help in the transition, and going forward would continue to advise and help out as needed. In general, the Asst. Treasurer works with the Treasurer who pays bills and generates the monthly and year-end financial reports from Quick Books.

It is important for the Asst. Treasurer to learn this process for times when the Treasurer is not available. This position only requires very basic accounting skills (i.e. can manage a household budget, expenses and investments) and who is comfortable using computer programs (spreadsheets, etc.). The Assistant Treasurer can expect to spend from 1– 3 hours/week in the church office working with the Treasurer on reviewing bills and signing checks. The Assistant Treasurer would also assist in the yearly budget process, preparing for the Annual Congregational meeting and assisting with year-end activities in December and January. We urge you to consider serving Trinity as Assistant Treasurer. If you would like more information or a more detailed description of this role, please contact us at the church office (508-753- 2989) or by e-mail to Roz Horn at rozhorn43@gmail.com or Scott Baeder at sbaeder@aol.com.

SCHOLARSHIP & CAMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Apply Now for 2023 College Scholarships and Camp Calumet Camperships!

The Scholarship Committee is happy to announce that applications for Scholarships and Camperships are now available. Active members of Trinity who are enrolled in Undergraduate degree programs are invited to apply for a scholarship from the Trinity Education Assistance Fund. Families who are planning to send their children to Camp Calumet this summer are invited to apply for a Campership. **All applications are due in the church office by May 24, 2023.** If you have questions, please contact the church office. You can find the applications and more information on Trinity’s website under “News & Updates.” <https://trinityworc.org/apply-now-for-2023-college-scholarships-calumet-camperships/>

TRINITY 75TH ANNIVERSARY

SPECIAL YEAR-LONG COLLECTION FOR CARTY CUPBOARD FOOD PANTRY

As a way to celebrate Trinity's 75 years of ministry in the city of Worcester, the 75th Anniversary Committee is encouraging specific donations to the Carty Cupboard Food Pantry. On the first Sunday of each month in 2023, our goal will be to collect 75 (or more) of a specific and identified item for the food pantry. **During the month of May, our goal is to collect cooking oil.** Donations may be placed in the shopping cart in the hallway. Please speak with Merrie Gerber for more information.

DID YOU KNOW? Some of the features of the chancel, or sanctuary, are from the founding churches:

- Trinity's chapel, Christ Chapel, was dedicated in May 1959 to the women of Trinity, past and present, who have served the church.
- The chapel is octagonal, inspired by the work of Nicholas Tessin, 1654-1728, the architect of the Royal Castle at Stockholm. The symbolism of the eight walls represents the four gospels sent out to the four corners of the earth.
- The four windows depicting the four Evangelists came from First Church. They were originally installed in the first chapel at Trinity, which is now the library. The other two windows represent the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. They were designed by Warren Englund, who also designed the Luther plaque in the corridor of the Parish Hall.
- The painting over the altar is the Flight into Egypt by Angeko Carvi, painted in 1774. The candlesticks on the altar are 16th century German, and the cross is from Stockholm. It's upper part is cut quartz crystal, and the base was fashioned to match the candlesticks. The altar frontal is hand-woven linen from Lund, Sweden, and the embroidery is a hand-stitched vine.

NEWS & UPDATES

SENIOR LUNCHEON / The next Senior Luncheon will be held on Monday, May 8 in Jeppson Hall beginning at Noon. The suggested meal donation is \$5/person. All are invited to attend for a time of food and fellowship. We hope you can join us!

NEIGHBORHOOD SUPPORT TEAM – BESS & ED SPROUL

As I write, the Afghan families are celebrating Eid al fitr, the end of Ramadan, and looking forward to a more normal schedule. Throughout the month they have been getting up around 3:30 a.m. to eat, then going back to sleep until 7:00, and waiting until sundown for dinner. They will communicate by face time with family in Afghanistan and celebrate in that way with loved ones in their very large family back “home.” It is a time of celebration, but also a time of longing for loved ones far away.

Ed took Shah Mohammad and Nader Shah to get taxes done through VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) and they both have refunds coming, which is good. It is hard to imagine how a family would be able to navigate the various enrollments and legal requirements without some assistance. We have been learning along with them.

During the pandemic, the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) was not enforcing requirements to work or go to school for Noor Jamal, the mother in our family. Now she is expected to attend classes. She will go to Ascentria to English classes on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. - Noon. We need women drivers who can take her to Ascentria, on Shattuck St., and bring her home at noon. (It would not be culturally appropriate for her to ride with a man who is not her husband.) If you can help with that, please contact Barb Grusell by email at rgrusell@charter.net or by texting her at 508-981-7906.

April vacation has been a nice break for the children, but 8 year old Asma, especially, is anxious to get back to school. Her English continues to improve, and she translates for her parents quite easily. As always, we thank you for your help and your prayers.

FAITH FORMATION

CHILDREN'S TIME / During the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist. Following the Children's message with Jena Hill on the Chancel steps, children are invited to go with Jena to Christ Chapel for Children's Time. While adults hear the sermon, sing the Hymn of the Day and offer intercessions, children enjoy age-appropriate activities and engagement with each Sunday's scripture stories. Children return to the Nave at the Sign of Peace in time for the Lord's Supper.

SUNDAY ADULT FORUM / Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the Library. During the months of April and May, we continue discussing ELCA Social Statements. Upcoming topics include: May 7 – Education; May 14 – The Church and Criminal Justice and May 21 – Sexism. For more information, contact Pastor Nathan

FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL / First Sunday of each month at 9:00 a.m. in the Multi-purpose Room. The whole family is invited! For more information, contact Jena Hill.

BIBLE STUDIES / We invite you to join us as we study God's word and the assigned scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday. Bible Studies meet in the Trinity Library and are also offered on Zoom. If you are interested in attending, please contact the bible study leader for more information, and to receive a Zoom link and other study materials, prior to the study.

- **Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m.** led by Cantor Mark
- **Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m.** led by Dave Horn
- **Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m.** led by Pastor Nathan

+ Worship at Trinity Lutheran Church +

Wednesday, May 3

Jeremiah 23:1-8 *God will gather the flock*

Matthew 20:17-28 *Jesus came to serve*

6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave Chancel) Live Video via www.facebook.com/tlcworchester

Sunday, May 7 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60 *Martyrdom of Stephen*

1 Peter 2:2-10 *God's chosen people*

John 14:1-14 *Christ the way, truth, life*

Psalmody: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 *O LORD, I commend my spirit*

Hymn of the Day: ELW Hymn 530, *Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather*, TOKYO

The second reading for this coming Sunday likens us all to newborn infants who need the milk that only God can provide. Come to worship, and together we will receive the Spirit of the Risen Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life.

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer (Christ Chapel)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworchester

Wednesday, May 10

Proverbs 3:13-18 *God, the truth and life*

John 8:31-38 *Jesus, the truth of God*

6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave Chancel) Live Video via www.facebook.com/tlcworchester

Sunday, May 14 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31 *Paul's message to the Athenians*

1 Peter 3:13-22 *The days of Noah, a sign of baptism*

John 14:15-21 *Christ, our advocate*

Psalmody: Psalm 66:8-20 *Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard*

Hymn of the Day: ELW Hymn 804, *Come Down, O Love Divine*, DOWN AMPNEY

In the gospel reading for this coming Sunday, Jesus says that he will not leave us as orphans.

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Christ Chapel)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworchester

Wednesday, May 17 Eve of the Ascension of Our Lord

Acts 1:1-11 *Jesus sends the apostles*

Luke 24:44-53 *Christ present in all times and places*

6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave Chancel) Live Video via www.facebook.com/tlcworchester

Sunday, May 21 Seventh Sunday of Easter

Commemoration of Helena, mother of Constantine, c. 330

Acts 1:6-14 *Jesus' companions at prayer*

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 *God sustains those who suffer*

John 17:1-11 *Christ's prayer for his disciples*

Psalmody: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 *Sing to God, who rides upon the clouds*

Hymn of the Day: ELW Hymn 322, *Oh, Love, How Deep*, DEO GRACIAS

The second reading for this coming Sunday likens evil to a roaring lion. So come to worship, and gather with Christ's community to receive strength to survive your ordeals.

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Christ Chapel)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworchester

Wednesday, May 24

Commemoration of Copernicus and Euler, scientists

1 Kings 8:54-65 *Solomon offers sacrifice*

John 3:31-36 *The Son and the Father*

6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave Chancel) Live Video via www.facebook.com/tlcworchester

Sunday, May 28 Day of Pentecost

Numbers 11:24-30 *The spirit rests on Israel's leaders*

Acts 2:1-21 *Filled with the Spirit*

John 20:19-23 *The Spirit poured out*

Psalmody: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b *Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth*

Hymn of the Day: ACS Hymn 944, *O Spirit, All-Embracing*, THAXTED

This coming Sunday is Pentecost, the fiftieth day of Easter, and we keep the resurrection of Christ by celebrating the Spirit of the Risen Christ in our midst. Jesus Christ has not gone away but is here with us: we stand to greet him as we hear him speak in the gospel reading, and we share in his body in the meal.

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Christ Chapel)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworchester

CELEBRATIONS

MAY BIRTHDAYS

We recognize the birthdays of our members age 75 and older

Thelma Agerholm – May 5
Joan Henrikson – May 11
Marylin Mercier – May 12
Judith Wickman – May 15
Carol Hartz – May 20
Kenneth Johnson – May 25
Loie Angelsten – May 28
Richard Richardson – May 29
Karen Nordstrom – May 31

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

We recognize anniversaries beginning with 25 years

Ben & Charlie Labonte – May 4
Alice Kerr Laird & Robert G. Goehrig, Jr. – May 8
Kenneth & Joan Henrikson – May 14
Diane & Steven Brown – May 20
Jari & Amy Leino – May 21
Marion & Richard Kirby – May 22
Chuck & Joyce Danielson – May 24
James & Susan Nachtigal – May 24
Ann & David Forsberg – May 30
Gerry & Nancy Finn – May 31

TRINITY CONGREGATION COUNCIL

2023-2024 Council Members

President – Karen Couturier president@trinityworc.org
Vice-President – Beth Getman vice-president@trinityworc.org
Secretary – Mary Tarquinio secretary@trinityworc.org
Treasurer – Nancy Fontneau treasurer@trinityworc.org

Jim Drackley, Rich Grusell, Jena Hill, Roz Horn, Rick Lagueux,
Dale Mattice, Mark Mummert, Pastor Nathan Pipho, Matthew Whitmarsh,
Suzanne Whitmarsh, and Judy Willoughby