

Trinity News

Volume MMXXIII No. 11 ✕ NOVEMBER 2023

Pastor Pipho's Perspective

The study aspect of my sabbatical this summer was antiracism work. To this end, I visited the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. and the Museum of the American Indian. I read several books and watched the sermons of the people of color who preached at Trinity while I was away.

The book "Of Blood and Sweat: Black Lives and the Making of White Power and Wealth" by Clyde W. Ford provided me an insight into this work. As I read Mr. Ford's work the consequences of how we answer simple questions became apparent.

Mr. Ford suggested that Europeans, often women, orphans, and the downtrodden were "spirited away" to the new American colonies to serve as indentured servants. These indentured servants worked side-by-side with African indentured servants. In 1640, three servants escaped their master but were subsequently captured. Two of these servants, a Dutchman and Scotchman, were ordered to receive thirty lashes by a whip and a have a full year added to their term of servitude. The third, African John Punch, was also given the thirty lashes, but his term of servitude was extended for his lifetime and made permanent. For this reason, some consider John Punch the first slave in America. The basic question: "are European and African indentured servants equal?" was answered with tragic and horrendous consequences: No. European indentured servitude was temporary. African indentured servitude was permanent.

Other simple questions were subsequently met with devastating answers. Question: does baptism into Christ free an African from slavery? Answer: No. Africans who were Christian in Africa could be slaves in the colonies. Following the conclusion of the Civil War and the passage of the 13th Amendment (Abolition of slavery), 14th Amendment (Citizenship and equal protection for all Black people), and 15th Amendment (granting Black people the right to vote) the question raised throughout the United States was: are Black people equal to white people? The answer: a

resounding no. Systematically, Black people were terrorized, brutalized, lynched, and stripped of the right to vote. Citizenship rights clarified by the Reconstruction Amendments were stripped away by white “Redeemer” governments which enacted Jim Crow segregation and other anti-Black legislation. What if Americans after the Civil War had instead taken these Amendments seriously and welcomed Black people fully and equally into citizenship?

This question wasn’t just answered in the South. One of my most fascinating sabbatical reads was “A Fever in the Heartland: The Rise of the Ku Klux Klan’s Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them” by Timothy Egan. This book explored the rapid rise of the KKK in Indiana in the mid-1920’s and is an indictment on Christian pastors. When seeking entrance and influence in a new community, pastors were the first people the KKK approached. Most often bribed, but also occasionally threatened with violence, preachers paved the way for the KKK by preaching it was the duty of good Christian men and women to join the organization. Question: are Black people equally beloved by God? Answer: No. White Protestants are the real beloved children of God and true American patriots.

Our preachers of this color, each in their own unique way this summer, provoked the question: “Are people of color welcome at Trinity?” They invited us to answer this question not mentally in our minds with consent to an abstract concept, but in our concrete actions: in the welcome we provide visitors at our doors, in the fellowship we extend at coffee hour, in the artwork we display in the Nave, and in the way we educate ourselves and are aware of the lived realities of people of color.

I am convinced that our Lutheran theology answers unequivocally and clearly that the answer to the question: “Are all people equal in the sight of God” is a resounding “YES!” God’s grace is announced in the unconditional love of Jesus who proclaims there is nothing we do, nothing we have to be, to earn God’s love. The water and word of Holy Baptism, and the bread and cup of the Lord’s Supper, is the same for all people. In Word and Sacrament, God speaks clearly that God’s love is for all God’s children.

For the sake of bearing witness to God’s love, our call as white Christians is to confess the ways sin has violently, and fatally, worked against God’s announcement of love for all of God’s children. In response to the simple question: “Does God love and welcome all people?” we are called to say yes in the ways we actively, thoughtfully, prayerfully, collaboratively, and boldly work for the equality and dignity of all people.

Again, thank you for granting me the sabbatical. I feel refreshed, refocused, and reenergized to minister with you in this new season of ministry as we bear witness to Christ’s love!

COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S REPORT – KAREN COUTURIER

Sharing some brief highlights of October 16, 2023 Council meeting
Council focused our attention on three major areas.

Pastor Nathan’s Sabbatical

Pastor Nathan shared that as he traveled and visited other congregations during his sabbatical, he found churches that have closed or with significant decline in membership. We reflected on what it means to be the church in today’s world. We considered the questions posed to us by Pastor Sarah Anderson in the C.A.T. review. What is our Why? What is our purpose? What distinguishes us from other churches? We reflected on our ministry together as a place of community, like a family, a place to nurture our faith and be spiritually centered. A place where all are welcome and can find God’s grace. Our call is to proclaim and share the gospel with all people. We reflected on ways we can welcome others to our faith community at Trinity.

Building Use update

The Clemente group have moved into space on 2nd floor of education wing to begin their new Micro College program. We are awaiting clarification of some contract language from our legal representative.

We discussed our current relationship and 2023-2024 contract with T.E.C. School. As we begin negotiations for the 2024-2025 school year, we anticipate transitioning to a standardized lease. Our intent is to use a team approach and standardized lease with all building use tenants to treat all parties fairly and equitably.

Council approved the Play Area Task Force recommendations

- Keep the play area as flexible space that can be used by other groups/people of all ages. There is currently a grassy area, sandbox and paved area. Having a flexible space gives us the opportunity to “live into” who we are and to be creative as we evolve.
- Groups can provide their own portable play items.
- Trinity will designate space for storage in the shed.
- Use of the play area to be scheduled through staff in advance.

Discernment - Future Staffing

Council considered the future staffing plan in light of Jena’s resignation from the Youth, Family and Outreach Ministry position. In her report, Jena shared her thoughts on priorities at this time. While it is tempting to immediately fill the position, we are taking time to discern what is needed at Trinity. We spent time brainstorming and sharing our thoughts on the many aspects of the position and possibilities for the future. Through listening to one another, reflecting and prayer, we expect to develop a plan that will best address Trinity’s staffing needs to carry our mission.

A clear priority for immediate focus is supporting ministry with young families. We looked at the Sunday morning Children’s message and chapel time. At this time, Pastor Nathan will provide the children’s message and Cantor Mark will cover the chapel time with support of parent volunteers. Pastor Nathan will meet with the Family Sunday School group on October 29 to hear their hopes and ideas. Input from families will be instrumental in shaping our decisions. Keeping our young families engaged in the life of the church is a top priority.

Council and the Personnel committee will meet with Jena on October 23 to share thoughts and questions about the Youth, Family and Outreach Minister role and listen to one another, reflect with each other and pray as we discern Trinity’s staffing needs. There are many creative possibilities and options to consider as we work together to address Trinity’s mission.

Many thanks to all our Council members for their faith, dedication and perseverance in our work together.

A reminder that Council meetings are open to all members of the congregation. Please speak with a Council member if you have questions. Next regular Council meeting is November 6, 2023 @ 6:45 pm.

TRINITY 75TH ANNIVERSARY

DID YOU KNOW ?

If you enter Trinity Lutheran through the front doors into the narthex, you will see two large plaques on either side of the doors to the nave. The one on the left says:

THIS CHURCH
WAS ERECTED
to the
GLORY OF GOD
and in the memory of
THOSE PIONEERS
OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY
WHO HERE
SOUGHT A NEW HOME,
BRINGING WITH THEM
LITTLE SAVE THEIR
FAITH IN GOD
AND THEIR
TRUST IN AMERICA.

And to the right:

TRINITY EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
CAME INTO BEING
January 1, 1948
BY THE MERGER OF
FIRST, BETHANY
AND CALVARY PARISHES
Founded 1881-1900-1921
TO BETTER SERVE GOD.
THERE IS ONE BODY
AND ONE SPIRIT.

75th Anniversary Banquet
Date: Sunday, November 5, 2023
Time: 11:30 AM
Location: Jeppson Hall

Trinity has embarked on an incredible journey over the past 75 years, impacting countless lives and shaping a legacy of excellence. The Anniversary Banquet is a special opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the past and the possibilities of the future and set the stage for a future brimming with promise.

Your presence will be an honor to us as we come together to celebrate the achievements of the past and the possibilities of the future. We currently have a **“waiting list”** so if you have not yet signed up, you can call the Parish Office, and you will be put on the waiting list.

We look forward to sharing this special occasion with you and creating memories that will last for years to come. Together, let's toast to the past, present, and the exciting journey ahead for Trinity.

Please note that there is no specified ticket price or fee to attend this banquet. A free-will offering will be received and any gift that you can afford will be greatly appreciated. Do not feel that you are required to make a donation of any stated amount. We want everyone to feel welcome to attend this celebration.

Please contact Paul Foster at 508-735-2689 or Charlie Labonte at 617-721 3593 with any questions.



TRINITY CAT'S MEOW COLLECTABLE FOR SALE / Now is the time to purchase a Cat's Meow to celebrate Trinity's 75th Anniversary. The cost is \$25.00 and they are available at the church. You may also contact Paul Foster if you would like to purchase one.

75th ANNIVERSARY ORNAMENT – DONATE TO A SHUT-IN THIS CHRISTMAS



Every Christmas, Trinity Shut-ins receive a gift from their fellow members at church. This year, in honor of Trinity's 75th Anniversary, we are suggesting that you consider donating a beautiful Trinity 75th Anniversary Christmas Tree Ornament as part of that gift. This lovely two-sided ornament is printed on porcelain and depicts the majestic Trinity Steeple on the front. The reverse side pictures the beautiful Risen Christ Window that is the center piece in the chancel above the altar. When the member receives and hangs this ornament in their home, it will act as a reminder of the love that we all share in Christ. Ornaments are for sale at \$20 each or 2 for \$30. Members of the 75th Anniversary Committee can help you with this purchase or you may call the Parish Office Tuesday thru Thursday at 508-753-2989 if you'd like to purchase one.

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 for the Carty Cupboard Food Pantry. On the first Sunday for each month in 2023, our goal has been to collect 75 (or more) of a specific and identified item. During the **month of November our goal is to collection cans of cranberry sauce.** The donations may be placed in the shopping cart in the hallway. Please speak with Merrie Gerber for more information.

NEWS & UPDATES

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING AT LUTHERAN

REHAB / Volunteers are needed to help organize Trinity's annual Christmas gift giving at Lutheran Rehab and Skilled Nursing Center, 26 Harvard Street, Worcester. It has been an annual Christmas tradition that members of Trinity have blessed every resident at Lutheran Rehab, and some years the staff as well, with a gift.

Gifts will be presented at the Sunday afternoon Holy Eucharist celebrated at Lutheran Rehab on Sunday, December 17th. Please speak with Pastor Nathan if you are interested and willing to help with the project as we plan to share the good news of Christ's birth with our neighbors.

HOST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR COFFEE HOUR / We need your help! Hospitality, Fellowship and Welcoming (HFW) needs volunteers to host coffee hour. Hosts are responsible for set up and clean up, and providing food. All paper goods and coffee necessities are provided by the church. The sign-up sheets for October through December are posted on the Trinity bulletin board outside the copy room. HFW Co-Chairs Thom Tarquinio and Amanda Cummings are happy to answer any questions.

MAKE A PRAYER SHAWL / The Care Team is hoping to have a supply of prayer shawls available for individuals who are in need of comfort for any reason. Completing a prayer shawl is a spiritual practice and you are invited to create one as you are able. You can knit, crochet or sew the prayer shawls but the finished size of the shawls should be 60 inches long and at least 18 inches wide. For more information about the origins of prayer shawls, prayers and a variety of instructions and patterns, please visit <http://www.shawlministry.com>. Completed prayer shawls can be left at the Parish Office.

SENIOR LUNCHEON – NOVEMBER 20 WITH SPEAKER FROM ELDER SERVICES / Our next Senior Luncheon will be held on **Monday, November 20** at Noon in Jeppson Hall. After lunch, Erin Pepka from Elder Services of Worcester, will speak to us about the community services that are available in this area. Erin will bring brochures about services and answer any questions you may have.

TRINITY BOOK CLUB / The Trinity Book Club will meet on Mondays (listed below) in the Library at 1:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Brown sbrown5453@gmail.com.

- November 20: *Mad Honey* by Jody Piccoult (F) - Teenage love leads to problems and secrets revealed by two families in New Hampshire. Also interesting facts about bees and honey.

- January 15: *Bruno* by Martin Walker (F) – The first in a series of current day detective stories set in France with an intriguing protagonist.
- February 19: *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks (F) – The story of a magnificent horse, how slavery supported the achievements of the past in unexpected ways, broken promises and delayed recognition.
- March 18: *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell (F) – The imagined story of Shakespeare's only son a twin.
- April 15: *Four Seasons in Rome* by Anthony Doerr (NF) – Before *All the Light We Cannot see*, Anthony Doerr spent a year in Rome with his wife and newborn twins. Beautifully written contemporary memoir.
- May 20: *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus (F) – the world of the sixties, free thinking women of science and how chemistry works between people and experiments.
- June 17: *A Single Thread* by Tracey Chevalier (F) – Friendship, love and loss in pre-WWII Britain and the power of embroidery.

FAITH IN ACTION UPDATE – NINA BEHM

For the months of **September through November**, Faith in Action will be collecting money for Christmas gifts for the Lutheran Home. There are 100 residents who will each receive a blanket and non-skid socks. We're estimating that it will cost approximately \$1,000 to provide these gifts. Thank you in advance for your contribution! Thank you to all who donated school supplies. All supplies were happily and gratefully received by the staff at Elm Park Community School. to provide additional pastoral services.

HOSPITALITY, FELLOWSHIP & WELCOMING THOM TARQUINIO & AMANDA CUMMINGS CO-CHAIRS

What we've been doing...

Worcester Pride

- Trinity had a booth at the Pride Festival for attendees to decorate quilt squares
- 150 squares were decorated, allowing us to make 5 quilts
- In the process of finding an LGBTQ+ organization to accept the quilts
- Spending - \$204 of our \$250 budget

Trinity Annual Picnic

- Held inside due to predicted weather
- Food and Fellowship was a success
- Face-painting talent of Christine was appreciated by children in attendance
- Spending - total of \$796, \$536 from “Picnic,” and \$250 from Hospitality/Fellowship “other”

Meeting on 10/2

- Picnic debrief, led by Thom, with rough plans for 2024
- Picnic debrief, led by Amanda, with rough plans for 2024
- Discussion around support for International Dinner and 75th Luncheon
- Budget proposal creation

2024 Budget

- Submitted to Nancy Fontineau on 10/2 via email
- Overview: Asking for a one-year increase in “Pride” budget to cover the cost of new shirts. *Excluding this increase*, HFW reduced our overall budget request by \$400 based on spending from 2023.

NEIGHBORHOOD SUPPORT TEAM UPDATE – BESS & ED SPROUL

There is just a quick update for our family this month. **Good News:**

New ID cards arrived for the family from the Department of Homeland Security, and they are good for the next two years!

Nader Shah had to get his driver’s license renewed, because it was going to expire when his ID expired. His driver’s license was renewed for five years, causing him to break into a huge smile.

Everyone is understanding English better, and the children are all answering questions in English. Thanks to everyone who has helped!

FAITH FORMATION

CHILDREN'S TIME / During the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist, following the Children's message with Pastor Nathan on the Chancel steps, children are invited to go to Christ Chapel with Cantor Mark for the Children's Time. Children return to the Nave at the Sign of Peace in time for the Lord's Supper.

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 interested, you may contact any of the leaders listed for more information.

- **Tuesdays at 10:45 a.m. led by Cantor Mark**
- **Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. led by Dave Horn**
- **Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. led by Pastor Nathan**

CELEBRATIONS

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

We recognize the birthdays of our members age 75 and older

Russell Chaplis – November 3

Jon Carlson – November 6

Betty Sander – November 10

Marion Grundberg – November 12

Dolores Diveley – November 15

Isabella Axelson – November 16

Elaine Moberg – November 21

Carter Lindberg – November 23

Carol Scanlon – November 25

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

We recognize anniversaries beginning with 25 years

Paul & Jane Johnson – November 2

Jeffrey & Dolores Gribouaki – November 14

+ Worship at Trinity Lutheran Church +

Sunday, November 5 All Saints Sunday / Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Revelation 7:9-17 *The multitudes of heaven worship the Lamb*

1 John 3:1-3 *We are God's children*

Matthew 5:1-12 *Blessed are the poor in spirit*

Psalmody: Psalm 34: 1-10, 22 *Fear the Lord, you saints of the Lord; for those who fear the Lord lack nothing*

Hymn of the Day: ELW Hymn 418, *Rejoice in God's Saints*, LAUDATE DOMINUM

On All Saints Day, we thank God for all the baptized, both the famous and the forgotten, both those who lived in the past and those around us today. Come to worship, to gather at Jesus' feet and to receive his words of blessing.

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

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

Sunday, November 12 Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 5:18-24 *Let justice roll down like waters*

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 *The promise of the resurrection*

Matthew 25:1-13 *Wise and foolish bridesmaids*

Psalmody: Psalm 70 *You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry*

Hymn of the Day: ELW Hymn 436, *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*, WACHET AUF

This coming Sunday we are to "wake, awake," and join the wise bridesmaids at the table of the wedding feast that Christ provides.

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

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

Sunday, November 19 Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 *The day of the Lord*

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 *Be alert for the day of the Lord*

Matthew 25:14-30 *Slaves entrusted with talents*

Psalmody: Psalm 90:1-8, 12 *So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom*

Hymn of the Day: ELW Hymn 688, *Lord of Light*, ABBOT'S LEIGH

Some people do a good job of using their talents to benefit others, but some persons never employ their talents to the full. Come to worship this coming Sunday. Hear the parable about talents; receive God's blessing; and at the table be strengthened to become an ever more creative and faithful servant in God's kingdom.

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

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

Sunday, November 26 Christ the King / Last Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 God will shepherd Israel

Ephesians 1:15-23 *The reign of Christ*

Matthew 25:31-46 *The separation of sheep and goats*

Psalmody: Psalm 95:1-7a *We are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand*

Hymn of the Day: ACS Hymn 1059, *Come Now, You Blessed*, MATTHEW 25

Are you a sheep or a goat? Lutherans believe that each of us is both saint and sinner, both sheep and goat. Come to worship this coming Sunday, the last Sunday of the church year, when we will praise Christ as the great judge who gathers us around his throne both now and at the end of time.

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

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

2023 ALTAR CANDLES, FLOWERS, TOWER LIGHTING, TRINITY NEWS, TV MINISTRY and TV EQUIPMENT

In this coming year, the Parish Office encourages donors for the Altar Candles, Flowers, Tower Lighting, Trinity News and TV Ministry to sign up early by using this form.

Name: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

- **Altar Candles:** \$20 per month to sponsor the altar candles for the month of _____ 2023. The dedication is to read given to the glory of God in **honor/memory/celebration circle one**) of: _____ by _____.

- **Altar Flowers:** As sponsor, you will order the flowers from the florist of your choice. You may have the florist pick up the floral inserts from the Parish Office if you are ordering the double bouquet for the stands or you may order an arrangement in a vase that the florist supplies. The cost is paid directly to the chosen florist and the donation is noted in the bulletin for the chosen Sunday. Please call the Parish Office if you have any questions about this process. I would like to give the flowers on Sunday, _____, 2023. The dedication is to read given to the glory of God in **honor/memory/celebration (circle one)** of: _____ by _____.

- **Tower Lighting:** \$20 per half month to sponsor the Tower Lighting for the **first half/last half (circle one)** of the month of _____ 2023. The dedication is to read given to the glory of God in **honor/memory/celebration (circle one)** of: _____ by _____.

- **Trinity News:** \$50 per month to sponsor *Trinity News* for the month of _____ 2023. The dedication is to read given to the glory of God in **honor/memory/celebration (circle one)** of: _____ by _____.

- **TV Ministry:** \$100/month or \$50 for the **first half/last half (circle one)** of the month of _____ 2023 to sponsor live streaming of Sunday services. Dedication can be given to the glory of God in **honor/memory/celebration (circle one)** of: _____ by _____.

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____ *Form and check can be mailed to the Trinity Lutheran Church, Parish Office, 73 Lancaster Street, Worcester MA 01609*

Trinity Worship Services on TV and the Internet

Live Stream Webcasts – www.trinityworc.org or www.vimeo.com/trinityworchester

TV – Worcester: Sundays at 11:30 a.m. on Channel 194 (one-week delay)

TV- Same Day Broadcasts: Shrewsbury – Channel 28, Sunday 8 p.m., Monday 12:30 a.m.

TV- Delayed Broadcasts: Auburn – Tuesday 11 p.m., Thursday 10 p.m., Sunday Noon & 11:30 p.m.; **Holden** – Channel 191, Sunday 8:00 a.m.; **Hudson** – Sunday 11 a.m. & 5:30 p.m., Wednesday 3 p.m.; **Leicester** – Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8 a.m., Sunday 10 a.m.; **Millbury** – Sunday 10 a.m., Wednesday 3 p.m. & Saturday 7:30 p.m.; **Oxford** – Sunday 1:15 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.; **Spencer** – Saturday & Sunday 8:30 a.m.; **Sterling/Lancaster** – Monday & Thursday 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m. **Sutton** – Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday 9 a.m.; **Uxbridge** – Tuesday & Thursday at 10:00 a.m. **Westborough** – Sunday at 1:30 p.m. **Briarwood** (closed circuit) – Channel 900 at 11:00 a.m. Sunday

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, Roz Horn, Rick Lagueux,
Dale Mattice, Mark Mummert, Pastor Nathan Pipho, Matthew Whitmarsh,
Suzanne Whitmarsh, and Judy Willoughby

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