

News In and Around
**Trinity Lutheran
Church, Hamilton**

April 2021
Volume 2, Issue 3



A Christian community, open to all, transforming lives through worship, learning and service.

Pastor's Message

It is February as I write this. The ground is covered with snow. Outside temperatures have dropped below zero. Nature still rests in its death-like sleep. Spring is weeks away. Today I feel the need to meditate on the promise of new life. Not just because winter will last for at least another month. Right now I feel painfully aware of how fragile life is. Over the first two months of 2021 a number of our Trinity friends passed away and are missed dearly.

I have to remind myself – and possibly some of you who might feel the same need - that we are Easter People. I am clinging to the promise that ‘*Christ risen*’ isn’t just for one holy feast day every year. ‘*Christ risen*’ is the game-changer every single day.

As Christoph Blumhardt, a 19th century Lutheran pastor and social activist, once wrote, it is the very hope that lets us “live and resist the spirit of death”. He goes on to say, “Take courage, no matter how much you have to suffer. Protest against death. Through Christ everlasting life can flow into us. This temporal life, cursed by death, need no longer play the tyrant.”

‘*Christ risen*’ is like the yeast in one of Jesus’ parables, yeast that seeps into the very fabric of our being and permeates it until we are all “leavened” by the risen Christ. We are turned into Easter people, marked by death but made alive again by love and hope that is greater than the reality of the world around us.

‘*Christ risen*’ is a God who pulls us out of our own graves of despair and breathes new life into us. It’s like holding our hearts and souls into the Easter sun shining 24/7; God heals and transforms our sadness and fractured hopes into something new.

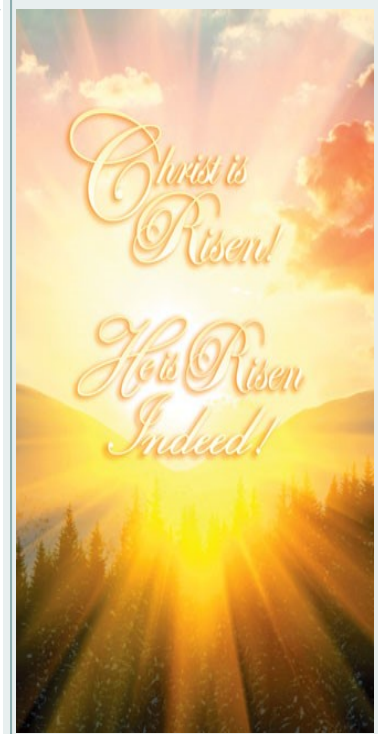
‘*Christ risen*’ is the promise that allows us to let go of friends and loved ones, because we know them in the loving mercies of a God of life. And it allows us to move on and be yeast of that new life for others in God’s world.

“We are Easter People,” Pope John Paul II once said. “Alleluia is our song.”

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Sing it. Share it. Live it and have a blessed and hope-filled Easter.

Thomas and Daniela



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TRINITY MILESTONES

Happy Birthday to those members of Trinity turning 90 + in February. They are:

Liesa Zabel April 12

Alfred Neske April 26

We wish all of the above a
VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY
and God's Blessings for
many, many more!



EARTH DAY EVENT APRIL 21st 7:00 pm

Earth Day is coming up. The official theme for this year is



"Restore our Earth." We are looking forward to welcoming you at our Trinity Earth Day Zoom event April 21 at 07:00 pm. Biology PhD student Celine Lajoie (McMaster University) will share a presentation on Hamilton Harbor followed by a conversation about how we as a church can contribute to "restoring our earth" - Moderated by Mark Weingartner.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/>

Meeting ID: 847 4623 8538
Passcode: 930860

FROM THE TRINITY BOARD

by Barbara Alken

Greetings from the Board of Trinity Lutheran Church!



In this communication we once again share great news! At Trinity's Annual Meeting on March 22, 2021, 93% of the members in attendance voted in favour of amalgamation with Grace Lutheran Church. At this point our work as the Board of Trinity focuses on the future, on moving forward as one united Lutheran presence in Hamilton, "transforming lives through worship, learning, and service".

The Board has created a detailed work plan for the next few months with the help of our consultant, Karen Bjerland, and we can see how much work needs to be done. If you have time to offer, we would love to hear from you!

We would also like to let you know that Trinity has hired a part-time bookkeeper. This was part of the original amalgamation plan, and now that we have had some time seeing how the administrative responsibilities work themselves out, we decided to hire Nancy Catton in that capacity. Nancy worked as the office administrator at Transfiguration, and we are very glad to have her join our team!

A final note: We have heard from many of our members how much they have enjoyed being able to join in to our Sunday services via Zoom. Before those services happen, a flurry of activity takes place within Trinity's Worship Team; sermons are written, readers designated, hymn leaders requested, videos uploaded, the text of hymns checked, the message of each Sunday's readings connected with hymns and music, and finally the powerpoints are created. However, without the tech team behind the scenes none of these worship experiences would reach our members. Every Sunday Fred and Jonathan Mertz are either on site at church or monitoring the service from home. Their quiet efficiency and unfailing support of this ministry has allowed every one of us to stay connected to one another and God's message of love during this pandemic, and we want to say just how grateful we are. Thank you so very much!!

Stay healthy, stay safe, and soon we will all be together again!

Meet - Sparrow Rabideau

By Deborah Lindeman

Sparrow Rabideau has been a member of Grace Lutheran Church for 33 years, but come this July 1st, Grace will be officially amalgamating with Trinity Lutheran Church. I'm sure you'll get to know Sparrow quickly once we're past this pandemic due to her involvement in many of the activities of the church.

At Grace, Sparrow has served on the Board of Directors for several years, currently as its President, and has been involved with the amalgamation proceedings. When her daughters, Lisa and Jen, were young, she taught Sunday School for several years. She has also been involved in gardening and the Good Food Box Program at her church.



When she was young, her parents attended a United Church and one of Sparrow's strongest memories was "when my Sunday School teacher cut an apple cross-wise to reveal a star pattern inside. She said that God made everything beautiful including the inside of an apple." For some reason, her parents stopped attending church. Though she felt ashamed during her teen years because her friends all went to church with their families, she didn't question her parents. "I felt as though I wasn't good enough for God," she lamented.

However, God's grace works in our lives in mysterious ways and Sparrow found her way back to the Lord while working as a waitress during her first year at the University of Waterloo. One day, she asked a customer what he was reading and he told her that it was the Bible. "I told him I didn't think I was good enough for God. He told me that God loved me unconditionally. He gave me a Bible, and the very first Book I read was Matthew."

At 19, Sparrow accepted Jesus as her Lord and Saviour. This led her to her involvement with a student Christian group on campus. When she started dating her future husband, Rick, he invited her to attend the church his family went to – St. Matthews Lutheran Church in Kitchener. That congregation made her feel welcome and at home there. After she and Rick got married, they moved to Hamilton to continue their university studies and transferred their memberships to Grace. She worked as a family physician for 33 years and has now been retired for nearly 3 years.

Fast forward to now: "I feel that Grace, as well as the other ELCIC churches in Hamilton, were struggling with declining and aging membership, making it more difficult to do outreach in the community. My hope is that by amalgamating, we will be a revitalized and stronger worship community. I hope to become a member of Trinity's Board of Directors in July and an active participant in the work of the church."

BIBLES AND BAGELS VIA ZOOM!

The Women's Bible Study that usually meets at Hughson St is now meeting via ZOOM during the COVID-19 crisis. The next Zoom Meeting is **Saturday, April 24th at 10:30 am**. If you are a regular member you will be sent the link to join, or you can email Jackie at **nunnsjackie@gmail.com** to send it.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/>

Meeting ID: 873 4214 4298
Passcode: 373613

MEN'S BREAKFAST VIA ZOOM!

Men's Breakfast will meet via Zoom on **Saturday, April 24th at 9:00 am**. If you wish to login in via computer and are not on the email list please contact Pastor Thomas **tfrm58@gmail.com..**

<https://us02web.zoom.us>

Meeting ID: 810 8540 2512
Passcode: 345212

CONFIRMATION CLASS VIA ZOOM

Due to the lockdown starting Monday, March 29th, the Confirmation classes will continue on Zoom.

Tuesdays, April 6, 13, 20,
27

<https://us02web.zoom.us/>

Meeting ID: 810 6144 6727
Passcode: 731996

WORSHIP SERVICES **AT TRINITY**

Trinity Worship Time,
Sundays, April 4, 11, 18, 25
10:00 am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/>

Meeting ID: 870 1956 1460
Passcode: 671220

Dial-In: 1 647 558 0588
1 647 374 4685

SUNDAY SCHOOL **VIA ZOOM**

For the foreseeable future, Sunday School will be offered via Zoom after services most Sundays (11:00 am) If your child wishes to participate please contact Pastor Daniela **daniela.mertz@elkb.de** to be included in the emailed invitations.

Sunday School
Sundays, April 4, 11, 18, 25
11:00 am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/>

Meeting ID: 864 0670 5249
Passcode: 274475



FOOD DRIVE

SATURDAY APRIL 17, 2021

FROM 10AM TO 1PM

At Trinity Lutheran Church

Fennell Site

232 Fennell Ave East

In support of Neighbour to Neighbour

There is an urgent need for the following items:

Cereal, Canned Meat, Rice, Dried Beans

If you wish to make a monetary donation please make your cheque payable to Trinity Lutheran Church/food drive or you can etransfer on the Trinity Web site trinity-hamilton.com

If you have any question, please call 905-974-9878.

Due to Covid restrictions we ask that you put your donations in your trunk and simply pull up in the Fennell site parking lot where someone will unload it for you.

A big THANK YOU in advance to Trinity Youth for generously offering to support this event!

Editor's Note: It has been a year since this prayer was published and we are still in the pandemic. Thought it bared repeating as a reminder to us all.

A PRAYER FOR A PANDEMIC

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close
Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.

Amen

Used by permission Cameron Bellm

A Trinity Core Value

by Pastor Loretta Jaunzarins

Grace: We live in the confidence that God loves this beautiful and broken world. God's love defines no one by their failings and makes everything new.

When you think about it, *grace* is an exceptional word that blankets all of God's creation with opportunities for healing, offering compassion, instilling empathy and birthing gratitude. It comes to us through our relationships with God, self and others (including all of creation). It can come through a song, a sunset, good food and warm conversation. Grace marvelously abounds throughout our lives as the Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 5:20. As Christians we have the opportunity to experience God's grace in community which becomes incarnate when we participate in the Lord's Supper. Grace is everywhere and it's supposed to permeate and flow through all of God's creation. It's like gravity – it keeps all things together and relational.



The words *grace* and *gratitude* come from the same Latin word *gratus*. If you find yourself a little shy of grace or gratitude in your life, try practicing gratitude, for gratitude is the gateway to grace. Our scriptures teach us to count our blessings and trust in God because this leads to a closer relationship with God and a fuller experience of God's grace. One way you can do this is called the "10 Finger Gratitude Exercise." Each day use your fingers to name 10 things for which you are grateful. It may not be easy after 3 or 4, but the purpose is to get us to go deeper and think about the small things in our lives that usually go unnoticed. Gratitude helps lead to a fuller understanding of grace.

As individuals, we are called to live out our faith and to share God's gift of grace each day of our lives. Living into grace inevitably leads to touching the lives of others and gifting them with God's grace. God's grace lives through us when we allow God's Spirit to do the inner work to grow the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. When these fruits of the Spirit are growing in us and living out of us, that is when we bring the message of the Good News to the world, the message of God's grace. When we experientially know God's grace, grace overflows and spills out of us.

As a faith community, we are called to spill God's grace throughout our neighbourhoods and city, incarnating gratitude in everything we do. Jesus taught us to be like a light in the darkness, or a city shining brightly on a hill; bright and full of God's grace. What does this brightness look like? We welcome all with the good news message of God's grace knowing that God will transform people's lives, including our own. This is the power of the message Jesus came teaching.

HOLY WEEK



Maundy Thursday

April 1 7:00 pm

Led by Pastor Daniela Mertz and
Pastor Loretta Jaunzarins

<https://us02web.zoom.us/>

Meeting ID: 869 0461 5762

Passcode: 550376

**Have a piece of bread with you
for the service.**

Good Friday

April 2 10:00 am

Led by Vicar Jan Edelstein and
Pastor Loretta Jaunzarins

<https://us02web.zoom.us/>

Meeting ID: 826 4880 6248

Passcode: 215786

**Have a candle and matches
with you for the service**

Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 4 7:00 am

Led by Pastor Daniela Mertz

<https://us02web.zoom.us/>

Meeting ID: 859 7116 7070

Passcode: 395906

Bring a stone to the service

Easter Sunday

April 4 10:00 am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/>

Meeting ID: 870 1956 1460

Passcode: 671220

Trinity Church—Emerges into Spring!

By Pastor Daniela Mertz

Each morning I take a quick look at our backyard in the hope of signs for spring to come. I can't wait to sit on the deck again and enjoy a few minutes in the sun.

For now, the backyard is still brown and grey, but I know, soon the tulips will show their green tips, then red and yellow, and all the colours of the rainbow will pop up. Just to imagine these beautiful colours is uplifting and encouraging.

Waiting for spring to come feels a bit like waiting for Trinity to emerge out of the labour of amalgamation and the pandemic lockdown to end.



We already feel the warmth of the sun, we are looking forward to engaging in congregational life and outreach ministries. We cannot meet in person, and so, church life still may look a little grey and not in full bloom yet, but we know much has already been done and achieved. On March 21, we had the final vote about the amalgamation, and on July 1, the last step will be taken when Trinity and Grace amalgamate.

Like how plants are growing, their roots invisibly underground, the board and the many dedicated volunteers in the various committees and all our members have done a lot of work preparing the new life of Trinity. From mountains of due diligence work on the board level to our conversation around our shared mission to figuring out a strategic plan and setting priorities for outreach, our roots as a community are beginning to take hold.

Together we have planted many seeds, and now we all are looking forward to seeing them grow and bloom this year.

Our mission statement (the guideline for our outreach work) says: “As an expression of our faith in Christ, the people of Trinity nurture those who are hungry in body and spirit. We do this in partnership with our community, by responding to the needs of our neighbours and by caring for God’s creation.”

It was great to see and hear our discussions after the service on February 21; there was a remarkable consensus that our outreach programs should focus on poverty with stress on food security, seniors and housing, family, and youth.

It's exciting to see the social ministry committee and our other church groups work and plan to bring our vision and mission to life. Already, I am looking forward to the Trinity Food Drive in April.

Social Ministry



The Good Shepherd Center is now accepting knitted and crocheted items to distribute. We continue to collect these items, as well as wool, new socks and underwear. Contact Dianne Busser 905-389-4008 or Waltraut Weingartner 905-387-3517 to donate.

If you are looking for another knitting or crocheting project, the supportive care team at the Dr. Bob Kemp Hospice give *Connection Hearts* to families who are staying at the hospice. The hospice is providing kits that include wool, polyfiber fill, yarn and copies of the patterns for the hearts. If you are interested in helping to make *Connection Hearts*, please contact Debbie Lindeman at deborahlindeman3@gmail.com or 905-389-0224.



The Social Ministry Committee is continuing to explore possible options for the garden at our King St. E. site. If you are interested in using a garden plot at King St. please contact Lynne Shanks 905-865-1456 or lynnemshanks@gmail.com. We will be discussing the future of the King St. garden at our next meeting on April 12, 2021.

Volunteers are needed to send cards to members who are celebrating their 90 + birthday or 50 or 60th wedding anniversaries. Cards and postage can be provided. Please contact Lynne Shanks if you are willing to assist. We are hoping for several volunteers as many hands make light work.

Trinity truly is guided by love. Equipped by the teaching of the Scriptures and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we care for our neighbours as God cares for us, without condition or judgement, for the benefit of our neighbour, not our own. Thank you for the love Trinity members continue to share.

Lynne Shanks, Social Ministry Chair

Worship God with Music!

Consider sharing your talents. Whether contemporary, traditional, or global music is your favourite, there's always a way to musically enhance our worship as we come together again in September!



This is for singers and players of all instruments!

Give the gift of music to our Trinity family!

Contact Heide at heide.lang@gmail.com or 905-616-2575.

Also, our zoom music team meetings are on:

Thursdays at 7:00 pm.

All choir and praise team members are encouraged to zoom in!

If you'd like to join us, contact Heide to be added to the email list.

Or just join the zoom meet - we love adding new singers/musicians to our team!

Meeting ID: 905 616 2575

Passcode: upbeat

1 647 374 4685 Canada

COVID Vaccinations for Those in Hamilton and Area

When booking your appointment for your vaccination, have your health card available. There are 2 ways to book your appointment:



Through your computer If you are eligible for your COVID vaccination based on your age, you can book your COVID vaccination appointment on-line through <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/>. You need your green Ontario photo health card and an email address. Your computer must have a fairly current web browser (the website is not compatible with Internet Explorer 11 or earlier). If someone else manages your medical care and appointments, they can do this for you.

By Telephone For people that are eligible based on age but do not have access to the internet or a computer, or who have a red and white health card, or who do not have an Ontario Health Card, or who are Indigenous, call the Hamilton Public Health COVID -19 Vaccine Hotline at 905-974-9848. Select option 7 and follow the instructions to book your appointment.

If you are still having difficulty arranging an appointment, contact your family physician as they may be able to assist.

THE BACK PAGE

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Thomas and
Pastor Daniela Mertz

ONE IN CHRIST is published ten times per year under the auspices of Trinity Lutheran Church. The Editorial Board is comprised of members of the congregation and the pastors. Submissions will be edited for clarity, positivism, adherence to our mission statement, constitution and the love of Christ as revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

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Please make all submissions to
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Life after Winter

by Jackie Nunns

Although it may not felt like a good thing over the last few months, I think that our climate in Southern Ontario gives us a spiritual advantage. Much as I get very tired of the cold, of wearing boots and of feeling a bit like the Pillsbury dough-boy in a winter coat, scarf and mitts, I would not want to miss the exuberant feeling of being freed from their encumbrance when spring finally comes. Who could imagine the colours, the light and warmth of the spring sun, the life force that bursts out in flowers and leaves, the noise of the birds in the morning, if they had never experienced it?



But what does this have to do with spirituality? Every Sunday in worship we say in our creed that we believe in life after death. We are an Easter people, and Easter is about resurrection. This is not something we can know, but we trust that God will bring new life from death. Who can imagine life after death? Perhaps someone who has experienced the liveliness of spring after a long, cold, deadening Canadian winter!

I hope that this Easter you can celebrate the possibility that we can be raised out of the dead places in our lives and be given new life!

Trinity Lutheran Church

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