

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

May 2021
 Volume 2, Issue 4



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

Pastor's Message

I very fondly remember a Pentecost Sunday a few years ago, an outdoor service at Germania park on a gorgeous day. There was a lot of chatter and laughter as people started to arrive. During the service, the faint scent of coffee brewing hung in the air.

Daniela and I had prepared about a hundred streamers in red, yellow, and orange. We had a dramatic reading of the story of the first Pentecost in Jerusalem and when we came to the part in the story where Luke tells us about the Holy Spirit appearing over the heads of the disciples like flames, we all waved our streamers. There was a sound of paper rustling in the wind and the streamers looked like the flames of a large fire. Later we all enjoyed each other's company at a BBQ. The adults talked and the kids played and one of them started throwing water balloons. It was awesome!

Pentecost will always feel a bit like that moment for me: joyful and a little wild, a crowd of people, young and old, coming together to worship, celebrate, share a meal, talk, play and simply enjoy being together. When we went home that Sunday, we all went with a renewed sense of community and belonging. It was a Spirit-filled moment, sacred and blessed, and no one could have had it alone. We truly needed each other to experience this.

"I believe that I cannot come to my Lord Jesus Christ by my own intelligence or power. But the Holy Spirit called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with her gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as she calls, gathers us together, enlightens and makes holy the whole Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus in the one, true faith," Martin Luther once wrote in his explanation of the Apostles Creed.

The circumstances of the pandemic still don't allow us to come together in joyful in-person celebrations. Like you, I miss it more and more and it makes me realize again how right Martin Luther was. We can't be church alone, by ourselves. Our faith calls for community, for finding ways to talk, sing, pray, dream and work together, even if socially distanced. And by the grace of God, we manage to. That is a wonderful gift and a huge blessing. Being part of Trinity has carried me through 2020 and the first half of this year. And like that Pentecost day a few years ago, it fills me with a sense of belonging and hope for our church once this pandemic finally loosens its grip on us.

What will that be like? What will it be like to live out our mission as Trinity after all those months of meeting, talking, and dreaming over the internet or on the phone? I guess moving forward post-covid might at times still feel awkward, but we will be supported by our experience of community and God's spirit filling us with hope.

Happy Pentecost! *Thomas and Daniela*



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TRINITY MILESTONES

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

Helmut Zabel	May 8
Hildegard Hofman	May 13
Bernardo Mertins	May 24
Grace Giles	May 25
Christel Neumann	May 30

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



Also we congratulate **Karl and Hilde Habl** on their **70th Wedding Anniversary** on May 26th! We wish them many blessings as they continue their lives together.

To all the Moms, Aunts, Grandmothers past, present and future....



FROM THE TRINITY BOARD

by Barbara Alken

Greetings from the Board of Trinity Lutheran Church!



After this month's second meeting of the Board, we have a few important highlights to share.

First of all, Pastors Thomas and Daniela Mertz will be on vacation from May 24-June 6. The service on May 26 will be led by Vicar Jan, and we are invited to join Grace for worship on June 6th. Pastor Loretta will be available for any pastoral care needs. We hope our Pastors enjoy a much-deserved rest!

The final step in the Amalgamation of all four Hamilton Lutheran churches takes place on July 1st, only nine weeks away! Because we have been going through this process for so long, we may sometimes lose sight of the fact that our final amalgamation is still to come. Groups that have been meeting, to talk about Investment Planning, Worship and Music, and Social Outreach, have been working through the process of joining as one. In some ways, this time together is a gift, a chance for members of Trinity and Grace to come together, talk, learn from each other, participate in workshops, and meet to understand the potential that our new Trinity can have to be a positive force in this constantly changing world. Like the flower that pushes through the cracks in the pavement, we will also be a sign of hope and rebirth to our communities.



How we realize the potential of all the talents and gifts, all the tremendous blessings we have been given, is what Trinity's Board has been learning about with Karen Bjerland. We have also been coming to a new appreciation of how complex these kinds of decisions can be, as we come to understand the needs of the people in our communities and how we could help. Ours needs to be a long view, and it takes time to build that view, step by step.

As we go through this process, we are finding examples of inspiration and innovation all around us, churches that have made decisions about how they want their future to look and have taken steps to be a living representation of God's love reaching out to the people who most need it.

We've chosen a few here for you to read about.

Hughson St Baptist Church and Indwell

St. Pauls, Bridgeport, MennoHomes, and Parents for Community Living:

St. Peter's, Kitchener and Indwell (look at second page of Eastern Synod Lutheran for story)

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

Meet Audrey Karlos

Interviewed by Pastor Daniela Mertz

Two Worlds Meet in Me

Audrey Karlos lives with her husband Chris in Stony Creek. I would have loved to visit with her but due to Covid restrictions, we had to have a conversation over the phone.

“Two worlds meet in me”, Audrey said, “and for the longest time, I didn’t even know that. Only as an adult, married and with children of my own, did I discover that my mother was an Indigenous woman.”

How did you find out?

“One day when I visited with my aunt, I saw a photo of a woman standing very upright in a traditional outfit and when I asked who it was, they told me that it was my grandmother on my mother’s side. You can imagine how surprised I was.”

Why had they not told you that your mother was Indigenous?

“My mother died when I was two years old. My father who had Scottish background (in fact a distant relative of Captain James Cook) raised me with the help of his oldest sister in Fort Erie. I never met my mother’s family even though they had lived really close by, and of course I regret that. But it was not easy for my dad, a single father in his late twenties. At first, I was annoyed with him because I thought I had missed so much. But now, I understand him much better. He was grieving the loss of his wife and he wanted to keep the promise he had made to my mother: to make sure that I wouldn’t end up in a residential school or be adopted (as part of the Sixties scoop). So, he thought it best to keep my indigenous roots a secret. I had a good and caring upbringing, and my father gave me all the love that I needed.”

What changed after you saw your grandmother’s picture?

“At first, I was stunned. But then I became curious, and I started to do some research. I couldn’t find out as much as I wished, but I made a few connections with distant relatives and I learned that my grandmother had been in the residential school in Brantford. Unfortunately, I couldn’t find her grave; I searched for hours in the “Indian part” of Woodland Cemetery but most likely she was buried “unnamed”.

“I was really attracted to my mother’s culture, to the music, especially to the drumming and the dancing. And I received my “status” and that made me really happy. Now those two worlds have come together, and I finally feel whole. I began to connect with the Native Centre and made good friends there. They were so welcoming and patient with me. I started drumming classes and they always have band-aids close by when I attend a beading class.”

Did it affect or change your faith?

“No, it’s more that it broadened my horizon. In fact, in that photo, my grandmother is actually holding a bible. So, I really never felt that I had to grow apart from my church. I still see the discovery of my roots as a very happy adventure, and I am thankful to have a foot in two cultures – and feel loved and whole.”



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, May 29th at 10:30 am**. If you are a regular member you will be sent the link to join, or you can email Jackie at **numnsjackie@gmail.com** to send it.

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

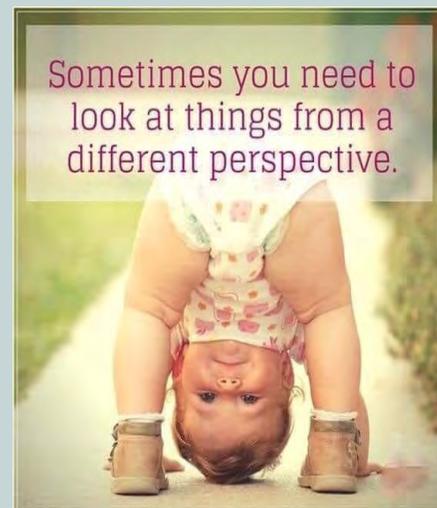
**Meeting ID: 841 6193 9676
Passcode: 009160**

MEN’S BREAKFAST VIA ZOOM!

Men’s Breakfast will meet via Zoom on **Saturday, May 29th 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: 852 8306
9263 / Passcode: 973993**



WORSHIP SERVICES **AT TRINITY**

Trinity Worship Time,

Sundays, May 2,9,16,23,30
10:00 am

<https://us02web.zoom.us>

Meeting ID: 870 1956 1460 /
Passcode: 671220

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

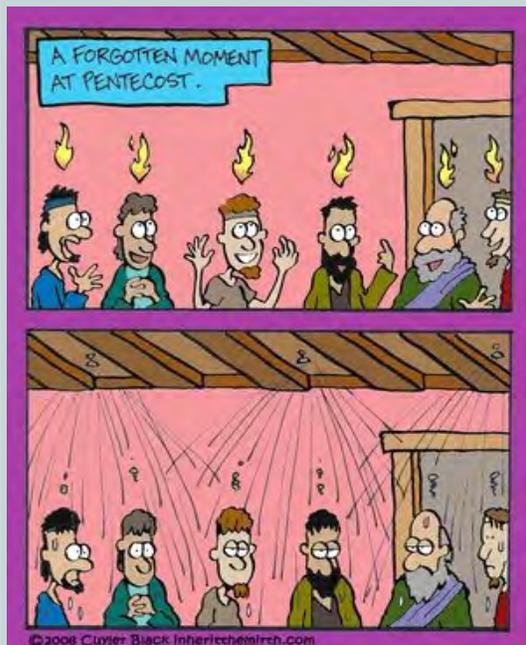
SUNDAY SCHOOL **VIA ZOOM**

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.

Sundays, May 2,9,16,23,30
11:00 am

<https://us02web.zoom.us>

Meeting ID: 864 0670 5249 /
Passcode: 274475



Social Ministry

Our first Trinity Food Drive had to be postponed because of the Provincial State of Emergency and Stay at Home Order. Unfortunately, food insecurity remains a big problem in the Hamilton area. There are several ways that you can still make donations in our community. Consider supporting either St. Matthew's House, Seniors programs or Hamilton Food Share. This can be done either by e-transfer to tlchamilton2020@gmail.com or by a cheque made out to Trinity Lutheran Church and mailed to our Hughson St. location. Be sure to include a note indicating which program you are donating to. It is also possible to go to the website of either of these programs or any Food Bank and make a direct financial donation. Trinity's support will help to promote people's access to much needed food.

Thank you to everyone who donated knitted or crocheted items- they have been donated to St. Matthew's House and the Good Shepherd Center for distribution. We still have some wool available – contact Dianne Busser at 905-389-4008 or Waltraut Weingartner at 905-387-3517 to arrange for wool, or to donate any completed items. Anyone interested in supporting the Dr. Bob Kemp Hospice by knitting or crocheting Connection Hearts can contact Waltraut Weingartner or Debbie Lindeman at 905-389-0224 to get a kit. These hearts are given by the supportive care team at the Dr. Bob Kemp Hospice to families who are staying at the hospice.

We want to thank everyone from each site that has sent cards to our members in the past. Thank you to Elaine Lymburner who has volunteered to send cards to the members of Trinity who are celebrating their 90 + birthdays, or 50 or 60th wedding anniversaries.

Trinity Members show through their actions that they are committed to responding to the needs of our changing community.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls – a Canadian Epidemic

Indigenous women and girls in Canada are 16 times more likely to be murdered or to go missing than white women. We don't know what happened to many of them, and we need to understand how Canada's social structures and laws have so devalued the lives of Indigenous women and girls. The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) was undertaken between Sept 2016 and Jun 2019. Its final report called for transformative change to eradicate this violence. But has anything changed?



In May join the Reverend Rosalyn Elm of the Six Nations Anglican Parish to find out more about this injustice.

Tuesday, May 18 at 7 pm by zoom.

The Value of Love

by Dianne Busser



One of Trinity Hamilton's core values is love. It seems quite a simple and obvious value for a Christian congregation to choose, but what exactly is love and how is it depicted in the Bible?

Many of us might respond by saying God is love and quoting by heart John 3:16: *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.* Others may refer to the great commandment in Matthew 22: *Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind... Love your neighbour as much as you love yourself.* Some might also refer to Paul's message about love in 1 Corinthians 13: *Love is patient and kind. Love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way, it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.*

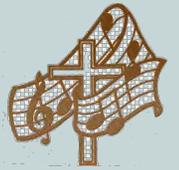
Depending on the translation of the Bible, the word 'love' appears between 300 and 800 times. Many scholars refer to the Greek terms *eros*, *storge*, *philia* and *agape* when explaining Biblical love. *Eros* is the romantic love that depicts intimacy, passion and desire as demonstrated by the pastoral love verses in the Song of Solomon. *Storge* the familial love between parents and children or brothers and sisters is a bond that develops naturally. Examples include the love Jacob had for his sons, and the love Martha and Mary had for Lazarus. *Philia*, from the Greek term *philos* meaning 'beloved', is a powerful, stable emotion that captures the love of great friends. It is about camaraderie, commitment, and strong bonds; a trusted confidant that is loved in a personal way. *Philia* is seen in the powerful bond that united David and Jonathon together in a deep, enduring friendship. The most general form of love depicted in the Bible, *philia*, includes care, respect, compassion for people in need and love for humankind. It is the type of love most Christians practice towards each other and it is sometimes referred to as the brotherly/sisterly love that unites believers.

John 13:34-35 describes this love, but it also speaks of a greater love, *agape* love: *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, just as I have loved you, you also are able to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another.* *Agape*, the most common term for love in the New Testament, is used to speak of God's divine and unconditional love. It defines God's immeasurable love for humankind. 'Agape love' is demonstrated when God sends his Son to us, and when Jesus dies on the cross. *Agape* is the love God has for the world and the love Christians should show all people. It is selfless, sacrificial love, given unreservedly without condition. While 'philia love' is emotion-based, 'agape love' is demonstrated through action. This love is given without expecting anything in return. 'Agape love' is the love we quote when we recite John 3:16 and 1 Corinthians 13. It is also the love of John 15:12-13: *Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.*

Trinity Hamilton is a place of brotherly/sisterly love, where we profess Christian love. How will you contribute to make Trinity a centre of 'agape love'? How will you demonstrate love in action?

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



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!

<https://us02web.zoom.us>

Meeting ID: 905 616 2575

Passcode: upbeat

1 647 374 4685 Canada



"People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.

If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway.

For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway."

— Mother Teresa

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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Typically male, typically female?

By Vicar Jan Edelstein

I must confess that it still happens to me from time to time. And it happens to me especially often when I start my prayer with "Our Father..." And wham! Already the image of an old, gray-haired man appears before my inner eye, looking quite loving.

Yes, God as the old man with a beard. Probably one of the most common images of God. Do you know, for example, the famous fresco "The Creation of Adam" by the Italian artist Michelangelo, on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel? God as a muscular man, with a stern look and white beard? What about you? How did you imagine God back when you were a child?



Sure, when we grow up and think about our image of God, we (hopefully) come to the realization: God is not a biological man. And yet this image still has a big impact. Why is that? Is that because of the Bible?

In the Greek Testament, God is referred to as Father a whole 261 times, especially by Jesus, who uses the term 'Father' a total of 170 times in the Gospels. Then God must be a man! Mustn't he?

Although the Bible is so old, it shows us once again how limited our imagination is today. The authors of the Bible were already much more advanced 2500 years ago! If you look for the 'father' term in the Hebrew Bible, you will find it there only 20 times. Now, one could say that the biblical authors simply used other typically male images for God. Yup. But now the surprise: There is also a lot of femininity in God! The authors of the Hebrew Bible thought their images much more visual. For example, in Deuteronomy: "You were unmindful of the Rock



that bore you; you forgot the God who gave you birth..." (32:18) So God is the one who gave birth to the people of Israel, like a mother to her child! But that is not all. For he cares for his people with full devotion: "Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you." (Isa 49:15)

God, like a mother who will never forget her child out of love. What a beautiful image!

Even in Jesus' parables, God does not always have to be a man. Far from it! Jesus has no problem with the fact that the origins of the kingdom of God can be created by a woman: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." (Mat 13:33)

In general, when Jesus speaks of the Father, he will have used the Aramaic word 'Abba'. This word does not only describe a physical father but can also mean an adoptive father or a spiritual father. Jesus actually says nothing else than "Dad" and means a person with whom we feel very intimate, familiar and connected. So, he is not talking about the gender of God, but our relationship to him.

So, it is not the Bible that creates this image of God as an old man with a white beard. It is us! But as the Bible shows, talking about God means putting aside all our outdated role models that we create ourselves. Because God is greater than any cliché.