

# Trinity Tidings

April 25, 2024

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## Quarterly Giving Statements

Available for pick up in the narthex on Sunday or in the office during office hours.

May 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Sunday, May 19

Capital Funds Campaign  
Celebration Potluck

Sign up at the Info Center

Just a reminder on participation towards the Capital Funds Appeal...

We continue to collect these funds through the end of 2024. All money received through the end of April will lower the principal on our mortgage. This will help to maintain or lower our monthly payment, which we hope will help offset an expected higher interest rate as the ARM contract is rewritten.

Any funds collected after May 1 will go towards the principle at the end of the year and this payment will be used to reduce the term of the loan.

As of the end of March, we have received \$35,862.15 for the Capital Funds Campaign. Thank you for your timely and generous support.



Sunday, April 28 *T-shirt Day*

- Adult Sunday School 8 AM
- Worship 9 AM
- Story Time 10 AM
- Sunday School 10 AM

Monday, April 29

Tuesday, April 30

Wednesday, May 1

- WIC 9 AM
- Confirmation Class 6:30 PM

Thursday, May 2

- Bible Study 9 AM
- Quilting 10 AM
- Comfort Crafts 5:30 PM
- Carport Clutch 6:00 PM

Friday, May 3

Saturday, May 4

Sunday, May 5

- Adult Sunday School 8 AM
- Worship 9 AM
- Story Time 10 AM
- Sunday School 10 AM

Click [here](#) for the most current calendar.

Click [here](#) for worship.



**Wear your Trinity T-shirt to church day**

**April 28th.** Wear our new T-shirt or maybe you still have one of our older Trinity T-Shirts to wear. A few new ones are still for sale in the church office.

Office Hours:  
8 AM - 12 noon  
Monday - Thursday  
Other times by appointment



- Jeremy & Julia Martinson - friend of Amy Kuehl, Jeremy is recovering from surgery
- Pastor Paul Thompson - brother of Pastor Chuck
- Carol Grossman - friend of Bob Marcks, health concerns
- Tony Krajna - friend of Dan Wesenick, cancer
- Jim Schmidt - friend of Dyreson's, recovering from surgery
- Shelley Langkau - cousin of Vigil's, cancer
- Bryan Price - friend of Vigil's, cancer
- Kristin - friend of Kelly Newton, health concerns
- Sue Luba - recovering from surgery
- Carla Fulcer - friend of Sue Luba, cancer
- Keith Krueger
- Mary Jo Driessen - friend of Wesenick's, cancer
- Paul Bock - recovering from surgery
- Brian Miller - health issues
- Trista Jo Westphal - health concerns
- Ginny Halverson - friend of Lehl's, recovering from a stroke
- Peter H. - friend of Dyreson's, leukemia
- Julie Smith - daughter of Jean Smith, recovering from transplant surgery
- Leslie Larson - uncle of Marta Wesenick, cancer
- Mike Loppnow - cancer
- Beth Cochran - friend of Dan Wegner, health concerns
- Kaden Wegner - grandson of Michael Wegner, health concerns
- Pastor Dean Desilet - friend of Pastor Chuck, health concerns
- Dixie Hill - health concerns
- Jill Maus - sister-in-law of Denise Knudsen, cancer
- Adam Lehmann - health concerns
- Dawn Haag - cancer

Thank you so much for the wonderful surprise this past Sunday for Administrative Professional Day. I cannot begin to express the gratitude I have for each of you. You make my job enjoyable and fun! I am honored and blessed to be able to work with you and for you. Thank you for the generous gifts, the beautiful choir music, the hugs, and the friendship.

Amy



## The Joy of Giving for the month of April is the Synod Assembly service project.

This year at Synod Assembly, we are supporting Crossways Camps. We invite you to include Crossways in your prayers as we approach the summer season. Each conference will be inspired to give based on one of the key values and ministries of Crossways. The Appleton Conference will be focused on FAITH. You can access a detailed wish list of items based on this ministry by clicking on the Crossways logo.



### Attention Families of 2024 Graduates.

We want to recognize all graduates of Trinity at worship on Sunday May 19th.



Send the following information to [trinity.newlondon@gmail.com](mailto:trinity.newlondon@gmail.com): School/University, picture of the graduate, and their future plans.

Family is as you define it and you are welcome at Crossways Camps! Our Family Camp all-ages programming is all-inclusive: meals, lodging, and quality, Christ-centered activities for all ages led by top-notch staff. Enjoy theme dinners, kayak our beautiful lakes, explore nature, and create life-long family memories. Register before May 1st and Save \$50/Family with code **FAMILY50**. Click [here](#) or call [920-882-0023](tel:920-882-0023) to register

- **Family Camp (3-Night) at Pine Lake Camp:** June 28 - July 1
- **Family Camp (3-Night) at Waypost:** June 30 - July 3
- **Autism Community Family Camp (3-Night) at Imago Dei Village:** June 30 - July 3
- **Family Camp (5-Night) at Imago Dei Village:** July 28 - August 2
- **GrandKid/Family Camp (3-Night) at Pine Lake Camp:** August 4 - 7



*The community meals team served 223 meals on Wednesday, April 24! Thank you to everyone who cooked, packed, served, delivered and donated!*





## **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

### **First Reading: Acts 8:26-40**

*Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.*

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it."

<sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He com-

manded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

### **Psalm 22:25-31**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

### **Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21**

*We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.*

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

<sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

<sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spir-

it. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world.

<sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

### **Gospel: John 15:1-8**

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.*

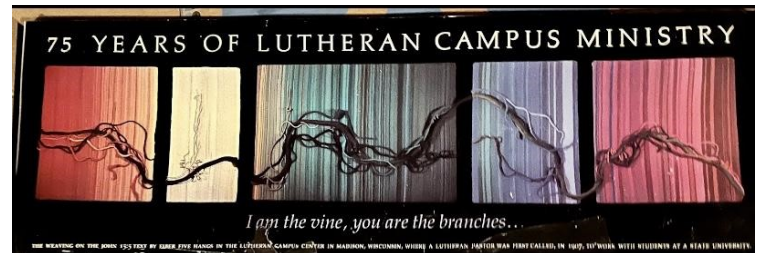


[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by

the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."



I am the Vine; you are the branches



This is a picture of a picture we have had up in our houses that reminds us of our time in Lutheran Campus Ministry at UW Madison. This was hung up on a wall in the hallway at the campus center as a reminder of why we were there: because of Jesus, the vine, our crucified and risen Lord.

This has special meaning for Laura and I as this is where we met. We, as well as many others, have branched off from Lutheran Campus Ministry.

It was there we grew in our faith, formed relationships, and where I discerned the call to ministry.

Jesus was there as our vine, and we branched off and bore fruit.

Jesus said "I am the vine" as a part of his farewell discourse in John.

This is his 7th and final "I am" statement in this gospel.

We remember the others: "I am the bread of life, the good shepherd, the door, the light of the world, the resurrection and the life, the way, the truth, and the life."

What is different about this final "I am" is that this time "You are" is added.

Jesus is talking about a reciprocal relationship.

He is the vine who is the source of love, but



we are his branches called to bear fruit for him.

The first disciples were given these words to remind them after his death and resurrection that they were not abandoned. They were still connected to the vine and would get the strength they need to go out into the world to bear fruit.

Jesus loved them to the end and promised them that they could live out this love with one another.

It is about a loving relationship.

Jesus is in a loving relationship with the Father and the Holy Spirit that is lived out in us.

The triune God is love and we are appointed to branch out and share the love.

How? In building relationships.

This is often not easy, especially with people we disagree with, but the love of Jesus can accomplish wonders.

Here's a powerful example:

Daryl Davis was once an aspiring and successful musician. He had played with Chuck Berry, B.B. King, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Muddy Waters. However, his true claim to fame, the legacy he has forged came in a very different way.

He went out of his way to befriend KKK Grand wizard, Roger Kelly. He met him through an-

other klansmen with whom he shared a common interest in music. He spent years building trust between them and laying the foundation of what became a friendship. They broke bread at each other's tables. They welcomed each other into their homes. Davis even went as far attending Klan rallies as a guest of Kelly.

Most importantly, Davis cultivated an atmosphere of listening. He didn't hate Kelly because Kelly hated him. Instead he listened to Roger Kelly. And eventually, Kelly started listening to him. This led to the two realizing they had far more in common than not.

Davis discovered: "we human beings all want the same things. We want to be respected. We want to be loved. We want to be heard. And we want the same thing for our families as everybody else wants for their families."

In the end, Kelly denounced his ties to the KKK. So much so, he handed his hood and robe to Daryl Davis.

In total, Davis has seen over 200 klan members walk away from the KKK and hand over their robes and hoods to Daryl. Daryl Davis is a world changer. Replacing hate with love. Because love conquers hate... every time.

Jesus, the vine, conquered hate through love.

He gave his life on the cross and rose again so that none of us can be separated from God's love.

When we know we are loved, we are able to love others, even those different from us.

This is how we can branch out from the vine: love as we have been loved.

Listen to one another.

Find common ground.

The church from the get go has grown when it stays connected to the vine.

We can cling to Jesus, the vine.

He is our power source: the power of love.

Amen.

"Once we deeply trust that we ourselves are precious in God's eyes, we are able to recognize the preciousness of others and their unique places in God's heart."

Henri Nouwen

MindfulChristianityToday.com