

Trinity Tidings

April 4, 2024

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Welcome,

New Members

Susan Millard
Nancy Millard
Hazel Hoier
Emma Hoier
Stacy Stammer

**Next community meal is
Wednesday, April 24, from 5-6 pm.**

Hot ham and cheese sandwiches will be served on 4/24.

 Trinity Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Donations needed for the March meal are:

- Healthy snacks (e.g. raisins, craisins, dried fruit, granola/protein bars, jerky, etc.)
- Desserts (packaged or homemade)
- PLEASE NO NUTS and NO ITEMS REQUIRING REFRIGERATION.

Place donations in the bin outside of church.

April 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				

Sunday, April 7 - Receiving new members

- Adult Sunday School 8 AM
- Worship 9 AM
- Story Time 10 AM
- Sunday School 10 AM
- Support & Service Mtg 10:15 AM

Monday, April 8

- Ruth Circle 7 PM

Tuesday, April 9

- Financial Resources 6:30 PM

Wednesday, April 10

- Confirmation Class 6:30 PM

Thursday, April 11

- No Bible Study
- Quilting 10 AM
- Comfort Crafts 5:30 PM
- Carport Clutch 6:00 PM

Friday, April 12

Saturday, April 13

Sunday, April 14

- 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.

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

Prayers & Praises

Email or call with your request.

- Carol - friend of Bob Marcks, health concerns
- Steve Dyreson - recovering from surgery
- Tony Krajna - friend of Dan Wesenick, cancer
- Judy Gregory - 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
- Genie Shaw - friend of Dixie Hill, cancer and other health concerns
- Mary Jo Driessen - friend of Wesenick's, cancer
- Erin Larson - recovering from surgery
- Paul Bock - recovering from surgery
- Betty Anderson - friend of Amy Kuehl
- 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, Trinity, for your continued support of the New London Food Pantry! The needs continue to be great. Please drop your donations in the deck box outside of the church doors.



If you didn't order a t-shirt but would still like one, there are 9 left for purchase : 2 medium, 1 Large, 2 Xlarge, and 4 2xlarge.

Payment can be made to Becca, Sue K., or the church office.

Serving at worship on Sunday

Ushers

Alivia Graichen, Woody Haag

Lector

Terry Wegner

Communion Assistant

Ron Flohr

Slides

Clay Marsh

Livestream

Dawn Haag

Altar Guild

Sue Luba, Jayne Murphy



Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help with our Lent and Holy Week worship services. We couldn't have done it without you!
- Worship Committee





Second Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Psalm 133

¹How good and how pleasant it is,
when kindred live together in unity!

²It is like fine oil upon the head,
flowing down upon the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron,
flowing down upon the collar of his robe.

³It is like the dew of Hermon
flowing down upon the hills of Zion.

For there the LORD has commanded the blessing:
life forevermore.



Second Reading: 1 John 1:1--2:2

The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death

so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

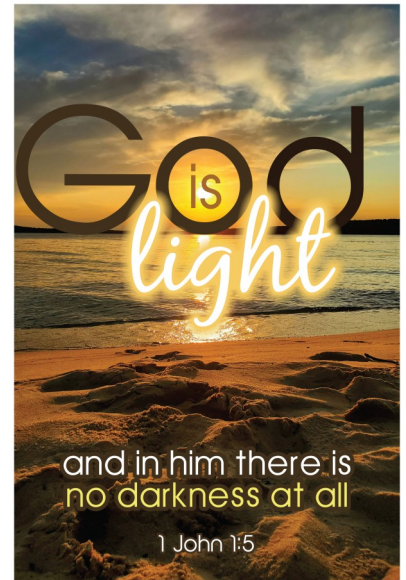
⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Gospel: John 20:19-31

The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house



where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

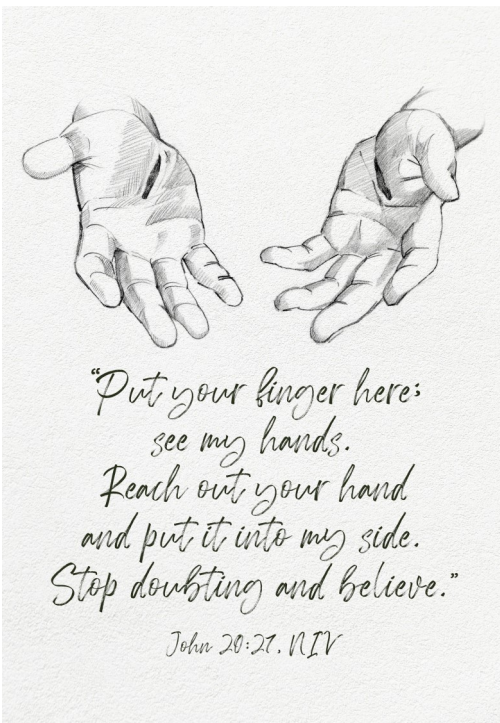
²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.



Ready or Not, Here I Come!

Does this sound familiar to you?

If you have ever played Hide and Seek it does.

One of my favorite games as a kid.

We played it in the basement where there were lots of nooks and crannies.

Great hiding spots, such as under Dad's work bench, under the stairs, behind the hot water heater.

I did not mind being "it," the one who had to find the others.

To me it was not as much fun to be found, especially if I put a lot of effort into finding my hiding spot.

Especially when my brother would rub it in: "Haha I got you!"

Jesus' disciples went into hiding after his death.

However, to them it was not a game.

They did not want to be found.

They were fearing for their lives.

They feared the authorities coming after them.

Most of them had abandoned Jesus when he was arrested.

Peter followed him to the high priest's house but chickened out when he was asked if he was Jesus' disciple.

John was the only one at the cross, the one with Jesus' mother Mary.

Now they were in their hiding spot, behind locked doors.

They certainly did not expect Jesus to come looking for them.

But he gets in in spite of their locked door and

greet them, "Peace be with you."

They rejoiced when they saw him.

He gives them the reassurance they need that he was alive and they could stop hiding in fear and go out and share the good news.

Jesus is now telling them "you're it!"

Thomas, however, was not with them the first time Jesus came to them.

He will not take their word for it.

Too often the focus here is on Thomas' doubt.

Thomas' request to actually put his hands into Jesus' wounds is merely for what the others had already experienced. His request was not unreasonable. The wonder of this moment is Jesus' willingness to meet Thomas exactly where Thomas was at. Thomas names what Jesus knew his disciples needed. The doors are shut. Jesus appears, nail scars and all. His offering of peace is followed by a demonstration of forgiveness—no condemnation for Thomas' request—a simple invitation. The disciples rejoiced, but Thomas' response is praise. "My Lord and my God!"

Thomas did not come to faith in Jesus on his own.

Jesus comes to him, and provides the evidence and reassurance he needs.

Jesus continues to come to us, to find us.

Jesus said "blessed are those who have not seen but have come to believe."

We live in fear at times as well.

We live in a time where there is much skepticism and doubt.

"Nones" are fastest growing religious group.

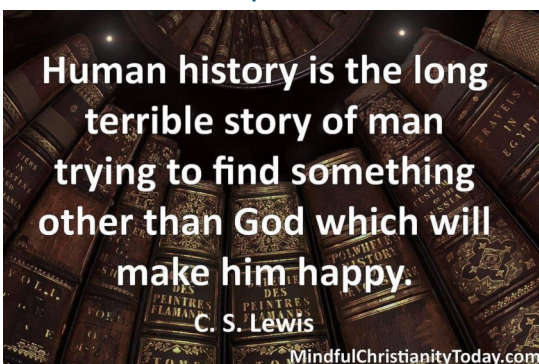
Loneliness is more and more widespread as many isolate themselves.

These (smart phones) are useful but can become addicting.

They can isolate us from those around us.

So many are looking for peace and joy and happiness everywhere else but with God.

As C. S. Lewis puts it:



Where do we experience God? In community.

We have our personal, individual relationships with God but we need more.

Writer Derek Thompson, an agnostic, discusses the decline in organized religion and its impact on society. He writes in an article in The Atlantic:

"I'm not advocating that every atheist and agnostic in America immediately choose a world religion and commit themselves to weekly church (or synagogue, or mosque) attendance. But I wonder if, in forgoing organized religion, an isolated country has discarded an old and proven source of ritual at a time when we most need it. Making friends as an adult can be hard; it's especially hard without a scheduled weekly reunion of congregants. Finding meaning in the world is hard too; it's especially difficult if the oldest systems of meaning-making hold less and less appeal. It took decades for Americans to lose religion. It might take decades to understand the entirety of what we lost."

The good news is that we as a church have great opportunity to offer what people need: relationships.

We find them through Jesus, our crucified and risen Lord.

Jesus finds us and gathers us together.

He comes to us in Word and Sacrament.

Jesus even can work through technology as people are able to connect with worship online.

Jesus has brought us together in the church to be his body, a place for all of us to connect and experience authentic, loving community.

That is ultimately what people are looking for.

Jesus tells us that we do not have to hide from him.

He meets us where we are and is accessible 24/7.

He tells we are now "it" and can reach out to one another.

Ready or not, here he comes!

No doubt about it! Amen.