Trinity Lutheran Church Staff
Lead Pastor – Jeffery Gaustad x103
Visitation Pastor – Rick Swenson x104
Pastoral Intern – Jesus Rodriguez x 115
Music Director – Jonathan Wohlers x114
Church Steward – Cheryl Mays Comen x112
Administrative Assistant – Pat Durston x110
Communications – Michela Hammond x108
Parish Nurse – Virginia Garrison x106
Operations Support Specialist –
    Beth Rich x112
Maintenance – Ed Kane
Hospitality Coordinator – Anita Christian
Youth Ministry –
    Karli Floyd (253) 537-0394
Caretaker – Kaye Olsen
Custodians – Lori Titus, Yelena Zhurko
Sound Technician – Russ Floyd
Sound Engineer - Lowell Kiesow
Cemetery – Cheryl Mays Comen x112
Healthy Parkland Volunteer –
    Shannon Kelly (253) 535-7916

Trinity Childcare and Preschool
Executive Director – Lynn Cooper
cooperlm@trinitylutheranparkland.org

2017 Church Council
Jeffery Gaustad, Lead Pastor
Roy Masengale, President
Steve Ostrander, Vice President
Douglas Wright, Secretary
Keith Cooper, Treasurer
Marsha Evans
Sue Ferber-Goodspeed
Bill Habermann
Lowell Kiesow
Tin Tin Lee
Jim McEnery

Trinity’s Messenger Submission Deadlines
Using Our Days Wisely – March 1
Resurrection Not Resuscitation – April 5
Season to Blossom – May 3
Summer Breeze – June 7

Note: All of the above is subject to change. Please submit text and images via email to: michela@trinitylutheranparkland.org. Submissions before deadline are appreciated.

REGULAR SCHEDULES
Sunday Worship at 9:00 and 11:00 am
Office Hours: Monday – Friday
    9 am – 4 pm
Food Pantry: Tuesdays & Fridays 11-3pm
    Sundays 1 pm - 3 pm

FEEDBACK
We want to hear from you! Send us an email at michela@trinitylutheranparkland.org, mail us a letter, or stop by Trinity Lutheran Church
From the Pastor
Jeffery Gaustad, Lead Pastor

A long, long time ago a young monk came upon an elderly monk, sitting with a group of other monks, leading them in prayer, work, and meditation. The younger monk sat down beside this elder monk and said, “Teacher, I have the ability to walk on water, so let’s you and I go over to the small lake over there and sit down and have a spiritual discussion.”

The teacher replied, “If what you’re trying to do is get away from these other brothers, why don’t you come with me and fly into the air and drift along in the quiet, open sky and talk there.

The young monk said, “I can’t do that because the power you mention is not one I possess.”

The teacher replied, “Just so. Your power to remain still on top of the water is one that is possessed by fish, and my ability to float through the air can be done by any bird. But these abilities have nothing to do with real truth and, in fact, may simply become the occasion for arrogance and competition, not spirituality. If we’re going to speak about spiritual things, we really should be talking right here.”

The point of the story is what most spiritually maturing people eventually discover; God is most found in the everyday, ordinary experiences and routines of life.

“God is in the pots and pans,” the 16th century mystic St. Teresa of Avila said. What she meant is that we are never closer to God than we are immersed in the everyday, ordinary moments of our daily life.

Spirituality is really a simple matter, but sometimes our expectations and notions of what spirituality is gets in our way. I find that if I can begin the demands of my day-to-day life with a sense of gratitude, my spiritual life grows richer. For example, I feel closer to God when I’m cooking, or washing dishes, or vacuuming, or spending Fridays with my two (soon to be 3) year old grandson, Owen. Only I also find, the next day I have to start all over again, which is both a challenge and an opportunity. I have to encourage myself to give myself permission to explore and experience spirituality in its many, many forms—in silence and in words, in prayer and in restful relaxation, in folding laundry and in listening to someone who needs a listening ear, in digging ever deeper into God’s Word. Through all of life, in the extraordinary, and in the ordinary, God is present. And remembering this, I once again find a wellspring of profound gratitude and well-being.

May you know God this day, running through the whole of your everyday life.

Pastor Jeff
Too Good for Jesus

Chi Chi Lee

When I was in elementary school, I remember hearing on multiple occasions people bemoaning the laziness of teenagers. Flash forward a decade or so to today, and that could not be farther from the truth. We celebrate the workaholic. Just take this conversation pattern commonly heard on my college campus:

“Ugh I have so much work to do this weekend.”
“Tell me about it. I have a lab report to finish, three readings for Spanish, and math webwork due by Monday. Plus I have to prepare a presentation for that club I’m president of, and squeeze in some time to hit the gym with some of my teammates.”
“Wow, how many credits are you taking this semester?”
“22.” (for reference: 16 credits is supposed to be normal)
“Oh good luck; I did that last year. This semester I eased down to 18 so I can get more hours in the lab I work at.”

There is a subtle but insistent culture of self-preservation and self-advancement in today’s society, and not just for students. It’s the idea of every person for themselves. Just get to the top of the ladder, strive to be the best – or at least be better than everyone else. For many people, myself included, accomplishments and titles and status have become the predominant aspects of one’s identity. We become like the horse Boxer, from George Orwell’s Animal Farm, with the solution to everything being “I will work harder.” Unfortunately, that leaves no room for Jesus. I recently heard a sermon about the apostle Paul and how he dealt with his accolades that can be paraphrased as such:

“Before his conversion on the road to Damascus, Paul enjoyed life at the top of Jewish society. As he describes in Philippans chapter 3, he was born into a devout Jewish family of the tribe of Benjamin, both of which gave him an appreciable level of status already. In addition, he was a Pharisee, he was zealous and he was righteous under law. He was the kind of person everyone else aspired to be. He was the one who had it all. Yet he writes, “For [Christ’s] sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him” (Phil 3:8-9). The things that gave Paul power and prestige – devotion to the Lord, passion, a good background, and a strong moral code – are not ‘bad things’, in and of themselves. In fact, they are quite admirable traits to have. But compared to Jesus, Paul says, they are worth less than nothing. To place his identity in Christ is more than enough for him.”

Continued on next page ...
Too Good for Jesus continued …

That was a lesson that I needed to hear, that it was possible to be ‘too good for Jesus’. To be so dedicated to a career or a job, to be so focused on being the best friend, to strive to be so good in the eyes of man, that we center our lives on those labels, those idols. We start to believe that we must be nice to the stranger because we are kind, or that we must work overtime because we are dedicated, or that we must not let anyone see our off days or our poor performances, because we are supposed to be the-one-who-always-has-it-together. But all that is because of Jesus.

What sets us Christians apart is not a kind heart nor a smooth and easy life. It’s that we are first and foremost are children of God. Everything else is the fine print. And when we let the eyes of the world see us as such – as nothing special – when we find our identity in Christ Jesus…

Perhaps the world might find Christ Jesus in us.

An Ordinary Sinner Celebrates

Cheryl McEnery

Scripture uses many different images to describe sinners - lost sheep, lost coins, blind wanderers, rebels, corpses, hopeless prisoners, slaves and even worms! Isaac Watts wrote in a hymn, "Would He devote the Sacred Head for such a worm as I?" But some contemporary hymn editors have replaced the "worm" reference with "for sinners such as I". It seems we don't mind being called sinners, but we draw the line at being called worms. But that's what we are! Editors can remove the word "worm" from the hymnal but not from the Bible.

We so often think we are so good and important, when in God's sight we are small and feeble. God knows us better than we know ourselves. But what we are in ourselves isn't important; its what we are in Christ that really counts. God still uses the ordinary and weak to triumph over the strong and powerful as well as to silence those who would boast. No matter how far along we are in our faith journey, it does us good to recall what we used to be and what the Lord has done for us. Isaiah reminds us that our self-righteousness is as "filthy rags" before our holy God. Yet in the book of Romans we are reassured that God commended His great love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. The Just for the unjust in order that He might bring us to God. After all, Jesus chose twelve ordinary sinners to take His gospel to the world.

That gives me cause to celebrate! That an ordinary sinner, such as I, can be free from sin, free from shame - free to be gospel. How extraordinary is that!
Consider the heart-shaped leaf....
The smile from a stranger....
The faithful sun rising daily....
The understanding friend....
The roof over your head....
A warm bed....
Music that gives you joy....
A God that loves you in spite of everything....

Is anything really “ordinary”?    
~Anonymous
2017 Concerts at Trinity Lutheran Church

SPRING CONCERT
Palm Sunday, April 9 at 4:00 p.m.
Intimate Baroque
A Concert for the Beginning of Holy Week
Dieterich Buxtehude’s Membra Jesu Nostri (The Limbs of Our Jesus), BuxWV 75

MID-SUMMER CONCERT
Friday, July 14 at 7:00 p.m.
The Choir of Christ’s College, Cambridge University (England)

FALL CONCERT
Reformation Sunday, October 29 at 3:00 p.m.
The Evergreen Brass Quintet
A Concert Celebrating 500 Years of Evangelical Reformation
Featuring Luther: Seven Scenes for Brass Quintet by Dr. Jerry Kracht
Great Hymns of the Faith
Jonathan Wohlers, Director of Music

The theme of this month’s Messenger, “Celebrating the Ordinary,” has me thinking about just what is ordinary. Ch. 3 of the book of Ecclesiastes tells us that “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.” As we pass through the stages of life, we are faced with many joys and pains, days of plenty and scarcity, and countless challenges that make us who we are. The hymn “O Christ the Same” (ELW 760) speaks of this journey, our walk through time, ordinary and not, with the Lord eternal as our guide. It was written in 1972 by the Anglican Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926) for the dedication of a new building for the Cambridge University Mission in the Bermondsey neighborhood of south London (now the Salmon Youth Centre) where he once served as curate. It was originally paired with the tune SALVATOR MUNDI by K. W. Coates in Hymns for Today’s Church (1982), and appeared in the Lutheran hymnal With One Voice (1995) with the Irish folk tune LONDONDERRY AIR (commonly known as “Oh, Danny Boy”). The well-known contemporary hymn writer Carl Schalk (b. 1929) composed the tune RED HILL ROAD specifically for “O Christ the Same” in 2004 saying that reading the text “struck a resonant chord” with him. When asked for new tunes by the Renewing Worship project, he submitted the tune for use with this hymn, published together for the first time in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006).
O Christ the same, through all our story’s pages,
our loves and hopes, our failures and our fears;
eternal Lord, the king of all the ages,
unchanging still amid the passing years:
O living Word, the source of all creation,
who spread the skies, and set the stars ablaze,
O Christ the same, who wrought our whole salvation,
we bring our thanks for all our yesterdays.

O Christ the same, the friend of sinners, sharing
our inmost thoughts, the secrets none can hide,
still as of old upon your body bearing
the marks of love, in triumph glorified:
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heaven,
O Prince of life, in all your saving pow’r,
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are given,
we bring our thanks for this the present hour.

O Christ the same, secure within whose keeping
our lives and loves, our days and years remain,
our work and rest, our waking and our sleeping,
our calm and storm, our pleasure and our pain:
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sorrows,
for all our hopes, when earth shall fade and flee,
O Christ the same, beyond our brief tomorrows,
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.
It’s a Wonderful Church

This is a portion of the Narrative Budget presented on January 29th at Trinity’s Annual Business meeting. The full text is contained in the Financial and Budget bulletin of reports, copies of which may be had in the main church entry.

In 1946, Liberty Studios released a movie based on the 1939 short story “The Greatest Gift” by Philip Van Doren Stern. Frank Capra produced and directed the film, which was released with a different title, “It’s a Wonderful Life.” The film stars Jimmy Stewart as George Bailey, a man who has given up his dreams in order to help others, and whose imminent suicide on Christmas Eve brings about the intervention of his guardian angel, Clarence Odbody. Clarence shows George all the lives he’s touched and how different life in his community of Bedford Falls would be had George never been born.

In the same spirit of “It’s a Wonderful Life” you’re invited to consider how, if there had never been a Trinity Lutheran Church, the community of Parkland would be a far different place today.

There could quite possibly be no Pacific Lutheran University. At times, Trinity’s pastor would be released for weeks or months at a time to raise money for a variety of drives for Pacific Lutheran College. Trinity collected what were known at the time as “Mission Offerings” with the moneys raised benefiting PLC.

In the heart of the Great Depression, Toppy Kylo’s father, Professor A.W. Ramstad, a member of Trinity, was responsible for purchases and operations of PLC’s kitchen. The college had an orchard, and the women of Trinity spent days canning fruit. This helped feed the students and kept expenses down at the college.

There might not be a hospital in Puyallup, or a Tacoma Lutheran Home without Trinity, or a Tacoma Seamen’s Center, as Trinity’s people played significant roles in saving or establishing these places of care.

Other area churches grew because of Trinity’s support and encouragement. Spanaway Lutheran was birthed in 1960 with Trinity’s help and support. Christ Lutheran in Lakewood, Christ the King Lutheran in Midland, and Gethsemane Lutheran in Tacoma all received both encouragement and members from Trinity. Parkway Presbyterian Church was born when a door to door survey of the Parkland area conducted in the late 1960s by Trinity members revealed a large number of unaffiliated Presbyterians, whose names and addresses were given to the Director of Mission of the Presbyterian Church. Think of the many church leaders—the pastors, parish workers, and missionaries—raised up in and through Trinity.

Continued on next page ...
It's a Wonderful Church continued ...

Consider the mounds of quilts, and health kits, and baby kits, and school supplies that Trinity has provided to our neighbors in need here in Parkland and around the world. Think of the hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars that Trinity has given in support of the greater church, foreign missionaries, and social service agencies. Consider the huge number of children who’ve been cared for through and learned through Trinity’s Childcare and Preschool since it opened in 1982, the 5 and 6 year olds blessed with a kindergarten experience otherwise unavailable in the years between 1983 and 2014. Remember proudly if you will, the hordes of kids who received Sunday School and Confirmation education in these buildings. How many of you had a hand in the teaching of those numbers?

In worship last Sunday we heard that in 2016 over 40 tons of food was distributed through Trinity’s food bank. This past week our food bank on Sunday, Tuesday and Friday saw a near record number of our neighbors coming to us for help in their food insecurity. Think about the empty, rumbling stomachs of neighborhood children and adults if there were no Trinity.

Think of the void there’d be if there were no Trinity to serve as a community center for the Parkland area—the organizations and social activities that have a home here at Trinity.

And now, think about your life, if there were no Trinity. What would you miss?—the excellence in worship in music and in preaching, the friendships you would not have, the knowledge you wouldn’t have gained because of Trinity’s educational opportunities, the lives you know have been touched and changed because of this Body of Christ over nearly a century of ministry.

Trinity is here today, making a difference in the lives of many, many people because you, and faithful people like you, have been and are the hands and feet and heart of Jesus here in Parkland and beyond. Together, united as Trinity, we are Gospel.

The reason we’re here today is to talk about and adopt a budget for this coming year—how we will support and carry out the mission and ministry God is calling us to here at Trinity and beyond...

...This million dollar budget is big, but there is no fat, and very little wiggle room in it. Remember, this year there are no raises or cost of living increases to any church staff members in this proposed budget. Childcare staff will get a small bump, largely because of the increase in minimum wage. A tuition increase will support these changes. This budget represents what it will cost to carry out Trinity’s present mission and ministry.

Continued on next page ...
It’s a Wonderful Church continued …

And there is one more thing we need to be honest about. While we currently owe no money to anyone but ourselves, for too many years in the last decade (7 out of 10) we have been ended the year in deficit. Some years our Childcare Ministry has been combined into one budget with our other Ministry and Mission, as it is now. That has been beneficial, given the more predictable nature of funding over there. Trinity provides the facility and the maintenance, some of the overhead as well, for the Childcare to operate. But when it comes to actual cash, our church has been, shall we say, held up above water more than once by Childcare revenue.[End of year financial results: 2016= (-$12,209), 2015= + $19,734, 2014= (-$48,430), 2013= (- $3,274), 2012= + $38,413, 2011= (-45,357), 2010= (-$14,958), 2009= (-$14,413), 2008= (-$3,701), 2007= +$9,958]

Like Joseph’s dream, we’ve had fat years, and we’ve had skinny years. And right now, those skinny years are catching up with us, impinging and impeding our view of Trinity’s future. God is faithful, and the members of Trinity are, as they have been, generous. The world around us is changing. Our Parkland community has changed, and for the most part, we mostly ignored or bemoaned those changes.

What will Parkland be like if there finally is no Trinity? And will God—and all of us—let this happen? What if, instead, we seize boldly our mission to save this wonderful church and its wonderful footprint here?

We’ve work to do, my sisters and brothers—God’s work—the kingdom work of being gospel.

Looking Ahead

Lent begins Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2017 with worship at 7 PM.

Midweek Lenten worship begins March 8 with worship beginning at 7 PM, preceded by our Simple Soup and Bread suppers. PLU’s University congregation is being invited to join us.

In honor of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, our focus in Midweek worship will be Luther’s Small Catechism.
Telling Our Story (As Part of God’s Story)

In case you didn’t know, last year we distributed various publications to the community in an effort to let our presence be known, share who we are, and invite people to participate in all the wonderful things we do here at Trinity. Materials, such as Ministries at Trinity, Feeding Ministries brochures, Volunteering pamphlets, Volunteer Handbook, Worship with Us, and much more were either mailed to a minimum of 200 households, handed out at numerous community events, or both.

This year, we want to focus on telling “our story” to connect further with co-workers, friends, neighbors, family, and community. We can add value to these relationships by opening up conversations, emphasizing our experiences, and welcoming participation at Trinity. Nobody tells "our story" better than us. So, if you would like to pick up some Trinity materials and engage others in our values, getting involved, and making a difference, please contact Michela Hammond at (253) 537-0201 ext. 108 or michela@trinitylutheranparkland.org.

Upcoming Events

Sat, February 11
The Ordination of Matt Byrd • 1 PM • Calvary Lutheran

Tue, February 14
Valentine’s Dinner • 5 PM • Thompson Hall

Tue, February 14
TLCW Meeting & "The Invention of Wings" • 7 PM • Fireside

Thurs, February 16
Miriam Circle • 10 AM • Common Room

Mon, February 20
President’s Day • Church Office & Meal Site Closed • All Day

Tue, February 21
Mary-Martha & Rachel Circles • 1 PM • Fireside Room

Tue, February 21
Esther Circle • 7 PM • Homes or Fireside

Sun, February 26
Church Wide Women of the ELCA Bold Women Sunday

Tue, February 28
Shrove Pancake Supper • 5:30 PM • Thompson Hall

Wed, March 01
Ash Wednesday Worship • 7 PM • Sanctuary

Wed, March 08
Simple Soup & Bread Supper (Lent) • 5:30 PM • Thompson Hall

Wed, March 08
Midweek Lenten Worship • 7 PM • Sanctuary

Tue, March 14
TLCW General Meeting & International Program • 2 PM • Fireside

Wed, March 15
Simple Soup & Bread Supper (Lent) • 5:30 PM • Thompson Hall

Wed, March 15
Midweek Lenten Worship • 7 PM • Sanctuary

Thurs, March 16
Miriam Circle • 10 AM • Common Room
# Birthdays

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The congregation is cordially invited:

Jonathan Wohlers in Concert
*Music by German and French Masters for Lent*

The Richard D. Moe Organ Recital Series, 2016–17
Sunday, March 5 at 3:00 p.m.
Lagerquist Concert Hall
Pacific Lutheran University