



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Experiencing and
Sharing Jesus



701 East Florida Avenue, Urbana Illinois 61801-5950 – Phone: 217-367-8923

Pastor Shawn Boylan – pastorshawn@trinity-urbana.org

Traditional Worship - Saturday - 5:30 p.m.

Traditional Worship - Sunday - 8:30 a.m.

Contemporary Worship - Sunday - 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School/Bible Class - 9:45 a.m.

What barriers did Jesus' disciples have in believing? And like them, what barriers do you and I face in trusting and following Jesus? I've found encouragement in my faith by looking at how Jesus connected with John the Baptist. You may be facing one of the barriers he did, right now. Or you may be helping someone who is facing one of these barriers. They're common to everyone. The message of Jesus Christ and the love of Jesus Christ can reach us in spite of the challenges that all of us face in following Him.



The scripture seems to say that John may have never met Jesus. Or, if he had, since Jesus was his cousin, John still didn't know Jesus as the Messiah. For John said, "I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel." John 1:31 & 33 (NIV)

I find comfort in the fact that John didn't have all the answers. What thought in your heart and mind calms you when you're stressed? Is it from God? It sounds too ridiculously simple to say, "Just trust God." So let's explore the faith of John the Baptist for a minute. How did Christ personally reach out to him? What barriers did John have in believing and how is he like you and me?

The ruler Herod (who was actually the son of the Herod who was ruling when Jesus was born) imprisoned John and ended up beheading him, because John told Herod it was wrong for him marry his half-brother's wife, along with all the other evil things he was doing.

But John wrestled with believing that Jesus was the way even though he heard God the Father's voice speaking from heaven saying to Jesus, "You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Mark 1:11 (NKJV), and he "saw the Spirit come down from heaven in the form of a dove and rest on him." John 1:32-33 (NCV)

Just after the baptism, John was put in prison. Whether you've been in a literal prison doesn't really matter, we've all dealt with limitations, hassles, problems and hurts that have scarred us. Things in our lives that seem to chain us down. Things that cause us to have a negative point of view towards somebody else or our work that we have to do or even ourselves. Sometimes a person might even wonder if God is with them in the struggle.

The point is that as we follow Christ in this world we're not exempt from suffering. And I find great comfort in the great John the Baptist; one in seeing that he too doubted, and two, in seeing how Jesus lovingly encouraged Him. For example, while John "was in prison, [he] heard about all the things the Messiah was doing. So he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, 3 "Are you the Messiah we've been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?" Matthew 11:2-3 (NIV).

"Jesus told John's disciples, 'Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen—5 the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor.' 6 And he added, "God blesses those who do not fall away because of me." Matthew 11:4-6 (NIV).

The connection that Jesus makes in this text is patience and compassion with someone who already believes and is serving God with all his heart. There are times in your Christian life when you are down. You are troubled about what you're going through, and a connection with Jesus through the Word, at those times, will bring you out of the confusion and back into the light of Christ.

What was the barrier that John had and that Christ had to overcome? The barrier was doubt. The doubt centered on not believing "that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" Romans 8:28 (NIV).

Notice, and I think this is the key application point for us as believers, that John reached out to Jesus and Jesus responded immediately. From John's perspective, he had an intolerable wait sitting in a prison of doubt and a literal prison cell too. But in reality, which John could only see by faith, the answer and encouragement from God was swift in that Jesus responded right away. Here's a good verse to memorize: "Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear." Isaiah 65:24 (NIV)

Faith in Christ is greater than your circumstances and God's love for you in Jesus is unstoppable. Don't miss the beautiful encouragement that God had placed in John's heart: Jesus "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29 (NIV) A very simple message that encourages a believer to "not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

Blessings in Jesus,

Pastor Shawn



During Lent, we'll explore the person and work of Jesus Christ building to His death for our sins on the cross and His victorious resurrection from the dead! On Sundays we will consider God's redemption through Jesus Christ with video clips from the movies *Son of God* and *Risen*. During our Wednesday Lenten services, we'll follow the new LCMS series entitled, *Eyes on Jesus*. Please join us and invite your friends to come and be blessed in the love of Christ.

Wednesdays

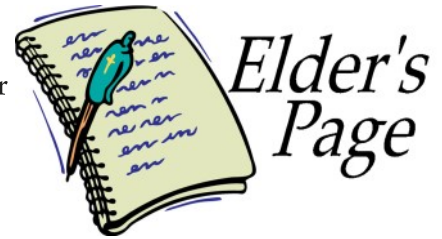
Our Wednesday fellowships
begin with a meal at 6 p.m.
followed by our worship service.
February 26 Ash Wednesday,
March 4, 11, 18, 25
and April 1

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 5
Maundy Thursday, April 9 at 7 p.m.
Good Friday, April 10 at 7 p.m.
Saturday, Easter Eve April 11 at 5:30 p.m.
Easter Sunday, April 12:
8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:40 a.m. Brunch and special kid's events
10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship

Let Us Pray...

Let me begin by offering a word of thanks to our Daughter Hannah, for picking up the pen last month and writing about what Millennials' are looking for in a church. ("The People" make the difference, was the take-home message) Work demands had continued to dominate my time, and when I told her about the newsletter, she jumped at the chance to express herself and help out her Dad at the same time. Hannah and husband Gabe had spent a while with us and his family over the holidays and into January helping out where they could, before beginning their next chapter in life together in St. Paul, MN. I thought I could see myself a bit in her writing style, but maybe that's just me (picture my wide grin here).



It's February already, and in a Leap Year too! Wow, maybe I can use the extra day in 2020 to get more done, be more efficient, or even relax. All things considered, I'll probably press on like usual, and not notice that extra day at all. My apologies to anyone whose birthday is on February 29th (Happy Birthday).

My small and shamefully selfish prayer was answered when Hannah volunteered to write for me last month. It was actually tough for me initially to let go of the reins, and allow her to just take over. It was however, also a blessing. I even learned a few things from my "little girl". She's a very capable adult, who has many talents. One is her willingness to help out wherever help is needed. Relinquishing control, and allowing her to help me out was quite liberating!

Prayers are answered, every time. Do you believe that? We've heard it many times, yet we may doubt. I believe this doubt may come from our unwillingness to accept God's answer to our prayer, in HIS time and in HIS way. Pastor Shawn shared in a recent January message, that we all have a part in God's plan. This plan must be incredibly large, as it includes everyone who believes in Christ throughout history, and until the end of time on Earth. How amazing to think, that even a plan as large as this, includes all of us! We may spend a lifetime discovering what our part is, or you may understand that your part is simply being who you are, where you are, in order to show the love of Christ to others.

Luther shows us examples of many ways to pray, and for many different circumstances in our daily lives. Spending more time in prayer no matter the reason, is sure to bring us closer to Christ, and into a closer relationship with Him.

One of the Disciples asked Jesus when he had finished praying, Lord, teach us to pray. Jesus said to them, when you pray, say, Father, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. (See Luke 11:1-4) In The Lord's Prayer we continue... Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen

Heavenly Father, help us to grow in your love and share that love with others. May the people of Trinity Lutheran Church be a beacon to our community, which draws believers to your family. Help us to recognize our part in your plan, so that Your kingdom may grow in our community. Amen

In HIS Service,
Kevin Donoho
TLC Elder Chairman



Wee Disciples Preschool News

Starting on February 1, we begin our 2020-21 preschool year registration process for current students and Trinity families. This year the registration fee in February is \$50 for current students and Trinity families. Registration is open to the community starting on March 1st with a registration fee of \$75. If you know a family with preschool age children (3-5 years) who may be interested in our preschool program, please share with them that registration has begun. Registration

flyers and program brochures are available right outside the preschool classroom. I am happy to answer any questions that families may have regarding our program. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email at weedisciples-preschool@yahoo.com.

February at Wee Disciples will be filled with the study of Jesus and his ministry. We will share that “We love, because God first loved us.” 1 John 4:19. February is a celebration in sharing the love of Jesus and God with others as we celebrate Valentine’s Day with class parties on February 12 and 13. There is no school on February 14, and on February 17, we will celebrate President’s day with no school. Our February Chapel with Pastor Shawn is scheduled for February 19 and 22. The students really enjoy their time spent with Pastor Shawn in the church sanctuary.

Our next Reading Buddy time will be on February 5 at 10:30 a.m. The students are forming friendships with their buddies, and they get so excited for this event. What a blessing it is to see the connection between our church and preschoolers.

Sharing God’s love,

Karen Rohrer,
Director and Teacher

Opportunity to Serve: All voting members of the congregation are being asked to prayerfully consider being a candidate for appointment to fill the unexpired term (ending December 31, 2020) of a member at-large on the Parish Council. A member at-large is responsible for the conduct of general activities in cooperation with the other elected congregation officers and the pastor depending on the current management needs of the congregation.

If you would like to be a candidate, please let a member of the Parish Council know. The Parish Council members are serving as the Nomination Committee. The president of the congregation, in consultation with the parish council, will appoint a successor to fill the remainder of the term at the next Parish Council meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at Trinity in the library/conference room.



YOUR LCMS AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS AT WORK

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN—RELIEF FOR HUMAN NEED WORLD-WIDE

In loving response to Christ, the Orphan Grain Train movement encourages and enables God’s people to share personal and material resources in bring Christ’s name and character to needy people both far and near.

OGT is based in Norfolk, Nebraska and has volunteers in 24 regional locations across the United States who gather clothing, food and other relief supplies for destitute people in 65 countries, including Haiti, to orphanages, schools, churches and hospitals. OGT also raises money to send relief materials and food where needed most.

OGT was started in 1992 by Pastor Ray Wilke of Grace Lutheran Church who saw the need and Mr. Clayton Andrews who donated his shipping business including trucks and warehouses to OGT.

For more information call 877-371-7393

FEBRUARY Birthdays

02/02 Robert McColley
02/06 Michael Ducey
Gary Koester
Linda Lindsay
02/07 Megan Althoff
02/09 Jeanne Umphenour
02/12 Liz Knocke
02/15 Daniel Lindsay
02/17 Matthew Boylan
Nichole Summers
02/18 Betty Strom
02/19 Seth Bull
02/20 Cody Witte
02/24 Chris Roegge
Laura Wetherell
02/27 Jan Brooks
02/28 Mark Tomory
02/29 John Sheppelman

FEBRUARY Anniversaries

02/10 Ernest & Jerilyn Parks (42 years)
02/14 Jennifer and Fredrick Holhubner Jr (33 years)
William & Jeanne Umphenour (28 years)

For the Month of January			
Date	Attendees	Communion	Offerings
01/05	148	122	\$7,721
01/12	130	119	\$4,621
01/19	117	113	\$4,574
01/26	131	120	\$5,342
YTD Receipts			\$22,258
Copies of Trinity's monthly income, expenses and full budget breakdown are in the Narthex and updated each month.			

The Women's Book Group will be starting a new book (not yet selected) in February and would like to extend an invitation to other women who are interested in joining the group. The group generally meets the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. If you are interested in joining the group or have questions please contact Risë Lange at riselange@icloud.com.

Pieces of Love: Hello everyone. We would like to thank you for the continued support of our small group. At this time we are seeking donations of flat sheets either queen or king size. We use these to back the beautiful quilts. Currently we have 20 quilt tops waiting to be completed. If you are able to assist, you can either leave the sheets in the church office or in front of the classroom we use for our supplies. If you have any questions, you can contact Jennifer Holhubner at 217-840-9439. Thank you and God's blessings.

Blood Pressure Screenings will be offered Sunday, February 23 between services.



Trinity Small Groups and Bible Studies

If you have questions, please contact the person listed below or ask Pastor Shawn. Also, if you don't have their contact information; no worries, just reach out to the office and we'll help you get connected.

- Sunday Morning Bible Study, (9:45 a.m.-Sundays), Pastor Shawn
- Bible Prophecy (9:45 a.m. Sundays), Al Willms
- Women's Book Group (7 p.m.-1st and 3rd Mondays), Risë Lange
- Pieces of Love at church (6 p.m.-1st and 3rd Wednesdays), Jennifer Holhubner
- Cottage Bible Study at homes (2 p.m.-February 9), Mary Jo Rott
- Women in Mission at church (6:30 p.m.-2nd Tuesday), Faith Wetzol
- Tuesday Bible Study (9:30 a.m.-February 11, 18, 25), Pastor Ehlers
- Young Adults Fellowship (7 p.m.-Thursdays), Jill Boylan
- Breakfast Bible Study at Urbana Gardens (7 a.m.-1st & 3rd Thursdays), Phil or Joyce Bell
- Couples Bibles Study (6:30 p.m.-2nd & 4th Sundays), Risë Lange
- Home Bible Study at the Rouse's (6:30 p.m.-2nd and 4th Fridays), Hilary Rouse
- JOY (11:30 a.m.-February 19)

USHERS

8:30		Fred Holhubner & John Steer
10:45	02/02	Brent and Blake Burr
	02/09	The Rossow Family
	02/16	Debesai and Yosef Stifanos
	02/23	Debesai and Yosef Stifanos

ELDERS/COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

5:30	Saturday	Richard Adams
8:30	02/02	Bob Frank
	02/09	Nick Tsiakals
	02/16	Jim Wanagat
	02/23	Dave Kuen
10:45	Sunday	Randy Niemann

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

02/02	Jill Boylan
02/09	Risë Lange
02/16	Hilary Rouse(E)/Deb Winkel(L)
02/23	Sandy Burt(E)/Carol Niemann(L)

CANTORS/READERS

8:30	02/02	Bob Frank
	02/09	Kevin Donoho
	02/16	Dee Dee Williams
	02/23	Risë Lange
10:45	02/02	Brent Burr
	02/09	Phyllis Mennenga
	02/16	Chris Roegge
	02/23	Phyllis Johnston

AUDIO/VIDEO

02/02	Leah Peifer
02/09	Aidan Tsiakals
02/16	Wayne Schmidt
02/23	Yosef Stifanos

ALTAR GUILD

John & Susan Sheppelman





TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 8:30a Traditional Service 9:45a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Service 12p Confirmation 6:30p Couples Bible Study	27 9:30a Bible Class	28 9:30a Bible Class	29 6:15p Choir 7p Neighborhood Watch	30 6:30p Girl Scouts 7p Young Adults Fellowship	31 5:30p Worship Service	1 5:30p Worship Service
2 8:30a Traditional Service 9:45a Sunday School 10a Trinity on WDWS 10:45a Contemporary Service 12p Confirmation	3 7p Women's Book Group	4 10:30a Wee Disciples Reading Buddy Time 6p Pieces of Love 6:15p Choir 7:15p Ministry Council	5 10:30a Wee Disciples Reading Buddy Time 6p Pieces of Love 6:15p Choir 7:15p Ministry Council	6 7a Breakfast Bible Study 6:30p Girl Scouts 7p Young Adults Fellowship	7 5:30p Worship Service	8 5:30p Worship Service
9 8:30a Traditional Service 9:45a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Service 12p Confirmation 2p Cottage Bible Study 6:30p Couples Bible Study	10 9:30a Bible Class 6:30p LWML-WIM	11 9:30a Bible Class	12 6:15p Choir	13 6:30p Girl Scouts 7p Young Adults Fellowship	14 6:30p Home Bible Study	15 5:30p Worship Service
16 8:30a Traditional Service 9:45a Sunday School 10a Trinity on WDWS 10:45a Contemporary Service 12p Confirmation	17 President's Day: Office Closed 5:30p Property Management Team 7p Women's Book Group	18 9:30a Bible Class 6p Parish Council	19 10:30a Wee Disciples Chapel Time 11:30a JOY 6p Pieces of Love 6:15p Choir	20 7a Breakfast Bible Study 10:30a Wee Disciples Chapel Time 6:30p Girl Scouts 7p Young Adults Fellowship	21 5:30p Worship Service	22 5:30p Worship Service
23 8:30a Traditional Service 9:45a Sunday School 10a Blood Pressure Screening 10:45a Contemporary Service 12p Confirmation 6:30p Couples Bible Study	24 9:30a Bible Class	25 9:30a Bible Class	26 Ash Wednesday 6p Choir 6p Lenten Dinner 7p Lenten Service	27 6:30p Girl Scouts 7p Young Adults Fellowship	28 6:30p Home Bible Study	29 5:30p Worship Service