



746 Colborne Street, London, Ontario N6A 3Z7
Office: 519-432-4832 | www.trinitylondon.ca

Pastor: Rev. Steve Johnston, Email: steve@webfeed.ca
Director of Music: Ross McDonald, Email: rossmcdonald.music@sympatico.ca
Church Co-ordinator: Annette Cantell, Email: trinitylondonca@yahoo.com



VISION STATEMENT

Trinity Lutheran Church is a community inspired by God
to share Christ's good news by what we say and do.

MAY 2023



For the past two years I have been engaged, through my Continuing Education program, in training to become a Spiritual Director. This Continuing Education program is funded partly by you, Trinity Church, and is also a deduction from my salary. The larger portion (which is two-thirds of the total monthly contribution) is from Trinity. I am ever grateful for this part of my compensation package as it allows me to develop knowledge and skills that enhance my role as a pastor but in this situation it goes further than that.

Before I go further, I am saying **THANK YOU** to all who contribute to Trinity's ministry which, in part, has funded my developing a deeper and more helpful role in guiding the Christian souls that I come in contact with.

Usually, spiritual direction is a 'one on one' activity. It is not pastoral care – it is not counseling; I do those things as a regular part of my role as your pastor. Rather, spiritual direction is more focused on being a spiritual companion – a spiritual friend – someone who walks **WITH** another person, who walks with intentionality, in their journey for a deeper relationship with God.

That also sounds like what a pastor would normally do, but it goes much deeper, and is more focused on going **along side** the other person. Part of my role as a pastor is very much like that, but, just like I will give pastoral counselling until my skills in that arena are not enough, I would then encourage people to seek more professional counseling. Spiritual directors are that "more professional" person that works with individuals to explore deeper relationships with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. As you can tell, spiritual direction is not an easy thing to explain.

Part of my training included an Ignatian retreat. St. Ignatius (1491-1556) developed a series spiritual exercise that are still widely used, mostly through the Roman Catholic Society of Jesus, or Jesuits, an order of religious men founded by St. Ignatius. Many protestant Christians have also taken on some of the Jesuit ideas and spirituality. I have frequently been most moved by Jesuit authors – they feed and direct my spirituality. In this 10-week retreat (with daily prayerful exercises and a weekly meeting with a director and other trainees for an hour on Zoom), I have been engaging in a deeper time of meditation and using imagination to let the Holy Spirit guide me. The following story came directly from one of these exercises. I shared this with the Senior's Worship & Lunch group in April. Now I share it with you.

INTRODUCTION NOTES: Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus on 25 December which would give March 26 as the date of conception. That date doesn't have any hard evidence and is more from our church traditions. No one knows for certain what date Jesus was born. We do know the year in which King Herod died, and modern scholarship suggests that Jesus was probably born between 6-4 BCE. Not that uncertainty about those dates changes the story. Jesus was born to Mary – a virgin. This is best read after reading Luke 1:26-44 where Mary is visited by the angel Gabriel.

“Mary’s Greeting” by Rev. Steve Johnston (reading: Luke 1:26-44)

Elizabeth was Mary’s cousin, but was a lot older than her, 37 years older in fact. Elizabeth was older than Mary’s mother. While she was technically Mary’s cousin, Elizabeth was more like a second mother to her. Elizabeth used to visit Mary, her mother, and her other siblings a lot.

Mary was the eldest child and was the first baby that Elizabeth had ever held. Elizabeth couldn’t have children herself, and so Mary became like a daughter to her. She watched her grow. She watched her help her mother and take care of her younger siblings. The two of them were very close. Elizabeth loved Mary deeply.

Mary also used to go up to Elizabeth and Zechariah’s hometown and spent many weeks with them. So, when the angel surprised Mary with the news that she would become pregnant, she thought about what her parents would say, and about what the neighbours would think. It seemed to her that a safe place to go would be with Elizabeth. She’d know what to say.

It was springtime and the Passover was coming soon, and going to see Elizabeth would be a pretty normal thing to do. Mary’s parents bought her story about going to see Elizabeth. It is a long walk to Elizabeth and Zechariah’s hometown and Mary had a lot of time to think about what she would say to Elizabeth about this very strange new news.

Mary also wondered about Elizabeth’s pregnancy. This too was very strange news. Mary thought to herself, “No wonder she hadn’t come down to see her this past winter.” Mary also had time to ponder the strange and parallel news that both of them were pregnant. The angel had told Mary about Elizabeth’s pregnancy and Mary pondered **that one** all the way there. “So, they still get together ... in THAT way,” Mary thought, “Who knew THAT was still possible at HIS age?”

But when it came to Mary’s own news, her thoughts and words were all jumbled up. She pondered how she would tell Elizabeth. “Maybe I could say, ‘You’ll never guess who came to see **me** last week?’” No that would be away too casual for such a divine visitor. “Or may I could say, ‘Guess who’s having a baby?’” No that wouldn’t work. Elizabeth would be showing by now and she could already hear Elizabeth’s jest, “Well duh, Mary? Look at me – **I** am having a baby”.

Then it came to her: “**Elizabeth – you look so radiant. I hope our babies will be friends.**” When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped inside her then filled with the Holy Spirit, she exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and your child will be blessed!’

The two women talked and talked and shared the stories of their divine visitors. The two women became closer than ever that day.

Imagination is one of the best and useful gifts God has given us. A lack of imagination can spell the end to many good plans and opportunities.

~ Pastor Steve



Council met on April 11, 2023. Since my last communication with you it has come to our attention just how dire the repair to the tower is. Since it

requires an expert in engineering, we have engaged the services of such a firm. They will tell us what is happening to the tower masonry and why. They will also tell us about a cost for any repairs. As I mentioned last month, our other improvements will have to wait.

Our sign at Oxford and Colborne is finished and I must say, I am pleased with its appearance. Hopefully it is safe!

Pastor Steve and others are working on a phone tree to be able to keep us all up to date about what is happening at Trinity if word needs to be spread quickly. If helping with a phone tree is a task you feel you could help with, please volunteer.

Nancy King has proposed the convening of a working group to start exploring the direction in which we hope Trinity will go. You will be hearing from this group in the coming months.

I would like to reiterate, if anyone has concerns, comments or suggestions, we welcome your input. God bless.

Yours in Christ,
Cheryl Millar, Council Chairperson

TLW

Just a reminder that the next Seniors' Worship & Luncheon will be held on **Tuesday 16 May at 11:30 am**. Please feel free to bring along a friend.

LUTHERAN MEN'S CLUB

The next Lutheran Men's Club Breakfast & Meeting will be held on **Saturday 13 May at 9 am**. This is open to both men and women of the congregation.

SCAMS AND OTHER FRAUDS



Have you, or do you know someone, who has received a "Grandparent scam" phone call? These scams often target seniors. The scam usually involves a phone call from someone

who pretends to be your grandchild. There are MANY other forms of scams by phone, email or text and are very professional put together and it is EASY to be taken in.

We are planning a session in June to educate people about these threats. It will be led by officers from the London Police Service. Please speak with Monica Spilsbury if you would like to know more about this.



happy
BIRTHDAY

Sherry Rowland (10)
Timothy Cooper (15)

Cheryl Millar (14)
Laura Manners (19)

Kebbah Cooper (15)
Barb Drogemuller (25)



POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION BURSARIES

Applications for the T.L. Ristine, C.J. Killinger & G. Dobrindt bursaries are now available. If you would like an application, please send an e-mail to the church or leave a phone message and we will forward an application to you by e-mail.

SYNOD SCHOLARSHIPS

The Synod Scholarship Fund is a program given to those students studying in educational institutions of theology leading to a vocation in the ordained ministry.

The Spencer-Barche Educational Trust Fund is to encourage young Christian people to pursue a vocation in which they continue to serve their Lord.

The Toolsie Fund is geared specifically to university students.

PLEASE NOTE: Deadline to apply for the Trinity Bursaries has been extended to **31 May**.

Applications are available from the church.

Synod Scholarships applications are to be sent to Synod no later than **31 May**.

SERVING IN MAY

	7 MAY	MOTHER'S DAY 14 MAY	21 MAY	28 MAY
Communion Assistant	Ted Reinhard	N/A	N/A	N/A
Reader	Lydia Reinhard	Blessy Kolusu	Nancy Magguilli	
Greeter(s)	Francis Hinnah & Family	George Cooper & Family	Dave & Pauline Hutchison	Rosemary Christensen
Coffee Host(s)	Linda Reynolds		Joan Leffler	
A/V	Jonathan Wild	Jonathan Wild	Jonathan Wild	Jonathan Wild
Altar Care	Robert Sellars & Jodi Kaufman	N/A	N/A	N/A



We are always looking for volunteers for our Sunday services and drivers for our Seniors' Worship & Luncheons. If you are able to volunteer, in any way, please call Annette in the church office. *"Many hands make light work"*.

MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Northern Hospitality 5 pm	2	3	4	5	6
7 5 th Sunday of Easter Holy Communion Lighthouse Church 2 pm	8 YOU 3 pm	9	10	11	12	13  Men's Fellowship 9 am
14 6 th Sunday of Easter Lighthouse Church 2 pm	15 Council 7 pm	16 Seniors' Worship & Luncheon 11:30 am 	17	18	19	20
21 7 th Sunday of Easter Lighthouse Church 2 pm	22 Office Closed	23 Thames Clergy 10 am	24	25	26	27
28 Day of Pentecost Lighthouse Church 2 pm	29	30	31			

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 2023

Please find below a report of this year's receipts and disbursements compared to last year.

	2023	Last Year	Variance	
Current Operating Fund				
<i>The current fund is used to cover our day to day expenses of operating the church.</i>				
<i>The expenses incurred are based on the budget approved by the congregation.</i>				
Envelope Offering	19,399	21,160	-1,760	
Rent Income	12,710	12,655	55	
Patio Project	-	-	0	
Grants	2,500	15,567	-13,067	2022 incl. medical 2022
Disbursements	73,726	89,905	-16,179	
Surplus (Deficit)	-39,117	-40,523	1,406	

Note - in 2022 we had a capital loss of \$146,223 on our fund investments

Benevolence Receipts

Funds designated as Benevolence or marked to another charity (ie Mission Services) are deposited into this fund. Weekly Benevolence collections are forwarded to the Synod.

Receipts- regular	2,908	1,587	1,321
Receipts - Special Appeal	65	1,308	-1,243
Disbursements	2,908	2,793	115
Surplus (Deficit)	65	102	-37

Debt Reduction

Receipts	206	368	-162
Disbursements	-	-	0
Surplus (Deficit)	206	368	-162

Help for Others

Funds designated as Help for Others go to fund our outreach program for Northern Hospitality

Receipts	238	345	-107
Disbursements	865	391	474
Surplus (Deficit)	-627	-46	-581

~ Lynne Killinger, Treasurer



PRE-AUTHORIZED REMITTANCE (PAR)

For any member who, for whatever reason, finds it difficult to attend church on a regular basis but really wants to support their church financially, there is a PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) Plan that you can use to make regular contributions. Please note this amount can be changed at any time with no charge to you. If you are interested in supporting your church in this manner, please call Annette in the church office (519) 432-4832 to make arrangements.