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VISION STATEMENT

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

FEBRUARY 2024

FROM THE PASTOR – STUDENT MINISTRY

You may remember that there was once a Student House run by the local ELCIC congregations. It was close to the gates of Western University on Richmond Street. I was involved in its operation before I came to Trinity as your pastor. It was part of the local conference (now known as the Thames Ministry Area) and I served on the board for a while. Pastor Susan Johnson (now our National Bishop) remembers the Student House fondly. Her father was the “chaplain” at the house.

The house closed a little while before I came to London and the proceeds from the sale of the house had been designated to fund Student Ministry in London. So, when I came to Trinity one of my actions was to come up with a way to continue doing ministry for the students. Trinity’s connection with the student population was quite strong. Many students became part our congregation for the years they stayed in London ... you can probably still remember some of their names.

About the same time I came to London (April 2012), St. Ansgar and Redeemer Lutheran Churches had just called two pastors to serve both congregations. This was meant to try a different model of ministry where two pastors, with different abilities, would team up to better serve both congregations. I asked Pastor

Heather and Pastor David if they would be interested in starting a joint student ministry with Trinity to take up the need left by the sale of the house. Their two congregations declined since they needed to focus on this new ministry model.

Student ministry seemed to me, and others at Trinity, as too important to let drop, especially given there was Synod funding available for the work.

Early in 2014, we started a team to work out how to do this and find out what the work should look like. We obtained help from the Synod’s Youth and Young Adult (YAYA) fund to pay for this new role. In September 2014 we hired Janelle Lightbourne.

Janelle did some incredible work with the students. Part of her success was greatly helped by her still being a student at Western. She also became a recognized chaplain at Fanshawe and Western. We have many stories of students finding a spiritual home at Trinity even though most are temporary. We have made a difference in their lives.

“The Student Ministry Worker does not need to be ordained nor Lutheran.”
Advertisement in July





Janelle 2014

Janelle was moved by Trinity's Lutheran theology, ministry and approach to social justice and started her education at Martin Luther University College (formerly Waterloo Lutheran Seminary) and she left our employment to focus on her studies. She will be graduating in May 2024.

Meanwhile... COVID happened, our congregation has moved more towards surviving than thriving. We have many questions about what Trinity is able to do today. Can our very successful VBS program restart post pandemic? Is Trinity still able to support a Student Ministry program?

Campus ministry all over Canada has become significantly more difficult. Much of that difficulty is the secularisation of the education system especially at the post secondary level.

Trinity has been gifted a wonderful opportunity at this time. Janelle is back in London as she finishes her degree, and we still have YAYA Synod funding left over from Janelle's previous work with us and council is heartily in support of this.

She will be picking up from where she was before, but the "gift" also allows Trinity to find out, "Can we still do this?". That will also be part of Janelle's work, to write a feasibility study to help us answer that.

Join with me in this prayer,

"God of opportunity, lift up Janelle in her work to the London students, help her gain access to post secondary institutions and connect with today's students."

~ Pastor Steve

HELPING REDEEMER IN LENT

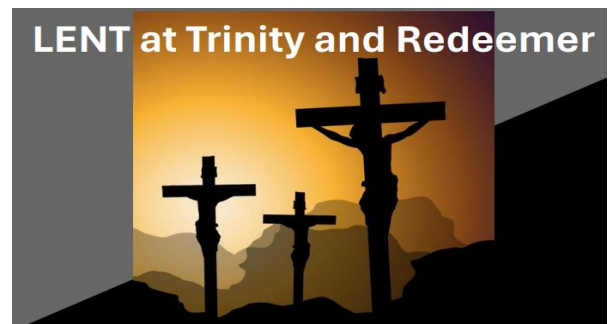
We were all sad to see Pastor Katherine leave Redeemer and move to Montreal. I enjoyed and valued working with her. We were also very surprised to hear that Redeemer has already found a new pastor, however, he cannot start until after his children finish the school year in June.

The good people at Redeemer reached out to us last fall to have a joint worship for Reformation Sunday. We were all delighted with how that felt to have a good number of people and voices in worship that day.

With that beautiful collegiality in the air, I reached out to Redeemer to help them with running their mid-week Lenten services. Trinity has not held Wednesday daytime services in a number of years. We had joined in with Redeemer daytime Lenten Wednesday service singing "Holden Evening Prayer", which is a favourite tradition in Lutheran circles ... despite the worship being at 2:00 pm in the afternoon. I will be leading that at Redeemer.

Also, during Lent, I have held a Zoom gathering on-line Wednesday evenings. I will be doing that as well this year and leading Lectio Divina. **This not a bible study**, but we will read/listen to a single passage of scripture, and listen especially for the Holy Spirit guiding us, individually, to hear something new in God's word. We share and converse with genuine inquiry each other's "new" things. I don't teach, I don't tell anyone right and wrong in how to understand or interpret the text, but rather, we dig deeper into what each person shares. You don't have to share – you can just listen too.

~ Pastor Steve



Wednesdays in Lent

21 February to 20 March 2024

2:00 pm Holden "evening" prayer at Redeemer

7:00 pm Lectio Divina via Zoom

(see link at trinitylondon.ca/len)



Council convened on January 8, 2024. We received a report regarding our property from Heather. Although our lighting and signage (exit signs) require updating, we qualify for a government grant under the small business section of the grant. I think our lights have not been updated since the 80's.

Council is earmarking **Sunday February 11, 2024** for "*Soup-er Sunday*". We invite anyone to make their favourite soup and bring it to church that day in a crock pot. We will have it after worship. Rolls will be supplied. Dazzle us with your specialty soup! Ross McDonald will provide music. We will also have a St. Patrick's themed lunch on St. Paddy's Day, **Sunday March 17, 2024**. Again, entertainment by Ross McDonald.

The folks at Redeemer Lutheran Church have graciously invited Trinity to worship with them at Easter and council has gratefully accepted on Trinity's behalf. More to come about this later.

I encourage anyone with a concern or suggestion to contact anyone on council to bring it to our attention. We are one family.

Yours in Christ
Cheryl Millar, Council Chair

HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAYS

Following the results of the recent survey, we are moving to celebrate Holy Communion more than once per month. We will celebrate (most of the time) on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday of each month.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP



Our Ash Wednesday Worship Service will be held **at Trinity on Wednesday 14 February at 2 pm**. There will also be a **7 pm service at Redeemer**. You are welcome to attend either or both services.

SOUP-ER SUNDAY

Enjoy a meal and fellowship after service **next Sunday, 11 February**, at a Potluck Soup Lunch. If you'd like to contribute a soup (bring enough for a family of 6), or bread, or dessert, please sign up on the sheet on the library table. Please feel free to bring a guest or guests! You don't need to contribute a dish to join us, as there will be lots of good food to go around. There is no fee for lunch, but please bring either a non-perishable food item or make a donation for the London Food Bank

MEN'S CLUB

This month the Lutheran Men's Club will meet on **Saturday 17 February at 9 am**. Our guest speaker will be Alan Day. He will be speaking on "People's Relationship with Fungi". This breakfast meeting is open to all men of the congregation.

SERVING THIS MONTH

February 4

Communion

Assistant	Ted Reinhard
Altar Care	Alan & Lynne Day
Reader	Cheryl Millar
Greeters	Dave & Pauline Hutchison
Coffee	Nancy Manners

February 11

Reader	Teresa Nicholds
Greeters	Bob & Carolyn Sellars
Coffee	Barb Drogemuller

February 18

Communion

Assistant	Ted Reinhard
Altar Care	Alan & Lynne Day
Reader	Eswar Kolusu
Greeters	Ted & Lydia Reinhard
Coffee	Cheryl Millar

February 25

Reader	Blessy Kolusu
Greeters	George Cooper & Family
Coffee	TBA



CAN YOU HELP? Now that our worship services are "*getting back to normal*", we need more volunteers. We are now looking at having communion twice, and sometimes three times, per month. We are also planning on once again having acolytes and crucifers. Please, if you are able to help, let Annette know. Remember - Many hands make light work!

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 5 th Sunday after Epiphany Lighthouse Church 1 pm	5	6 Participation House 8 am Inshallah 5:30 pm	7 Participation House (x2) 8 am YAPCA 5:30 pm	8 Participation House 8 am	9 Participation House 9 am	10
11 Transfiguration of our Lord Soup-er Lunch 12 pm  Lighthouse Church 1 pm	12 Northern Hospitality 1 pm Council 7 pm 	13 Participation House (x2) 8 am Inshallah 5:30 pm	14 Ash Wednesday Participation House 8 am Worship Service 2 pm at Trinity & 7 pm at Redeemer	15 Participation House 8 am	16	17 Men's Club Breakfast & Meeting 9 am  Men's Fellowship
18 1 st Sunday in Lent Lighthouse Church 1 pm	19 Family Day  <i>Office Closed</i>	20 Participation House 8 am Inshallah 5:30 pm	21 Participation House 8 am YAPCA 5:30 pm	22 Participation House (x2) 8 am	23 Participation House 9 am	24 Confirmation Class 9 am
25 2 nd Sunday in Lent Lighthouse Church 1 pm	26	27 Participation House (x2) 8 am	28 Participation House 8 am YAPCA 5:30 pm	29 Participation House 8 am		



CELEBRATING IN FEBRUARY

Happy Birthday

Ken Stahlke (4)

Barbara Stahlke (8)

Karen Stroh (23)

Heidi Beisswenger-Mooney (8)

Jean Krautner (18)

Guenther Sturm (23)

Happy Anniversary

Blessy & Eswar Kolu (12)