

# Trinity Lutheran Church

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## ***From the Pastor...***

Dear Ones,

At the end of my sermon a couple of weeks ago, I invited us to consider putting together a list of places that will prompt us to pray as we go past them. I first did this, what I called my "highway rosary" when I was driving between Danvers and Boston every day. It was a way to occupy my mind with something positive and prepare myself for the coming day without worrying or fretting. It was also a way to overcome my anxiety of exiting I-95 onto I-93 which must be the very worst interchange on the entire highway!

I was pleased and touched by the response in both churches, and I have compiled one list for us all. As you begin to put this into practice, you'll probably find more to add to your own individual "driving rosary."

Hospitals: staff and patients; those who are ill

Schools: children, educators

Churches: our brothers and sisters in Christ

Prisons, courthouses: those who are incarcerated

Town halls: local governments

Flags: government, veterans, the military

War memorials: veterans, the military

Post office, mail carriers: good news

Fire/police stations, ambulance garages: those who respond to emergencies

Nursing homes: the elderly, shut-ins, the lonely

Funeral homes: those who have died, those who mourn

Cemeteries: those who have died

Manufacturing places: the economy

Food pantries: those who are hungry, underfed

Subsidized housing: the homeless, the disenfranchised

Lakes and rivers: natural resources

The Progress Center: all those living with various disabilities

Fast food restaurants: those who make minimum wage

Airports, train stations, bus stations (and airplanes overhead): those who travel

Responsible Pet Care (or other shelters): animals

Casino: those with gambling issues

Farms: all whose labor provides us with food

Intersections, crosswalks: safety on our streets

Animals in the road: all wildlife, our pets

And this one, that brought tears to my eyes:

"Every house on the way into town and the other side of the road on the way back. You never know what concerns they may have."

I hope you'll undertake this practice of praying for the communities in which we live (and that the summer folks in our midst will start it in your winter homes as well!). I have this image of us saturating our towns with prayer. Who knows what good might start to grow?

Blessings to all,

Pastor Nancy

## **Council Notes**

At its January meeting, Council gave its stamp of approval on some upcoming fundraising events: March 14 Applebee's Dining to Donate (Christ Church has done this in the past and will be happy to support our efforts this time!) and a variety show in June which will be a joint venture with our Episcopal brothers and sisters. We are grateful for Christine Hebert, fundraising chair at CC, who has offered to help us.

## Stewardship is Many Things

*Br. Matthias Tanner has written a series of reflections on a life of stewardship, which will be included in our news page from time to time.*

I've just been studying Psalm 50 and have come to recognize the stewardship message in it. This psalm begins with a description of GOD arriving in glory to judge GOD's people. Heaven and earth are called to be witnesses, or better perhaps, to be observers, who can verify GOD's authority as judge, and who can testify to the fairness of the trial.

GOD accuses the covenant community of two things. The first has to do with the sacrifices offered in the Temple. GOD says these have been made regularly, but questions the reasons for the sacrifice. GOD does not need to be fed, it is not the community's duty to provide sustenance, because GOD "owns" all creation. The sacrifice is to be an expression of thanksgiving for the gift of relationship with GOD.

The second accusation has to do with the behavior of those who know what GOD expects of the humans in the covenant relationship, but deliberately choose NOT to do what GOD expects. Specific examples of violations of the Commandments are given, but all are meant to be considered. The gap between what the people say and what they do is dangerous to them.

In our time we do not offer animals in sacrifice, but we are still at risk of thinking that our offerings of time and talent and money are either necessary to GOD, or that they will obligate GOD to be nice to us, no matter how we behave. Our offerings do the best for us when they are given in gratitude. That is when we experience the salvation GOD promises. That salvation is not so much being pulled out of danger, but rather being made whole, complete, healthy. That is the life GOD intends for us to enjoy, and making our offering out of thanksgiving opens it up for us.

## Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14

Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion will be offered in both congregations.

9:00 Christ Church

12 Noon Trinity

Can't make either of those services? Talk to Pastor Nancy—she'll come to you or arrange a time for you to come to church for a prayer and ashes.

Also: if you would like to receive the daily Lenten email this year, please let Pastor Nancy know (even if you have been on in the past—the list is started anew every year)

And looking ahead...

### **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

#### March 25, Palm Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms and Stripping of the Altar

#### Maundy Thursday

6:00 Supper Church HERE with Christ Church

#### Good Friday

12 Noon GF liturgy at Christ Church

3:00 P GF liturgy here

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### January (belated greetings!)

1 Barbara Payne

7 Sandra Powers

### February

8 Tom Gallant

16 Hannah Gallant

19 Ted White

### March

4 Kitti Tikander

8 Larry Labossiere

8 Manny/Barbara Payne

15 Martha Leino

20 David McKenzie

29 Beverly Bailey