

Hi Hw Ahh Ya!

Yes I know that's not how you say the phrase but being from Boston there are some things that rub off on you. I figured that this first article from me may be good to give you a background of where I am from and some of how I got here. I will not be going into my call story, of how God called me into being a pastor, but we can at least cover some of it and most of the places I have been.

I was born August 12th, 1993 in Anoka Minnesota. I lived in Anoka for three years before moving to my family's first house in Plymouth Minnesota. By that point my older brother and I had a little sister and we were still figuring each other out. We stayed in that house for five years before moving to another house in Plymouth that was close to a lake. I have so many fond memories of that house. Being able to swim, innertube, ski, wakeboard, kneeboard, canoe, and go to friends houses with trampolines (on the trampoline) was truly a wonderful time. Five years later my family moved all the way to a town called Marshfield in Massachusetts. It was a bit of a culture shock for us and there were some difficult times, but we weathered the Nor-Easters and fell in love with our new home. It was in Marshfield that I graduated High School, helped start an ELCA mission congregation (after being confirmed Missouri Synod), and truly felt my call into ministry.

At first I didn't want to go to college. I thought it was more a waste of money than anything else, but after some convincing by my parents I applied to different universities based upon the future job I wanted. As I visited the different universities I began to have a feeling as soon as I stepped onto the campus if it felt right or not. The only two that felt "right" for me were those that I was applying to do religious studies. After choosing Lenoir-Rhyne University on a coin toss, I began my four years of undergraduate studies to attain a BA in Religious Studies focusing in Youth and Family Ministries with a minor in Psychology. I truly enjoyed my time in North Carolina and learned so much from the wonderful people down there. However, my journey didn't end there or bring me back to Massachusetts.

I applied to the same Graduate studies program that my home pastor did, Masters of Divinity at Trinity University right in Columbus Ohio. I hit the ground running trying to shake off the relaxed year I had in my undergraduate (saved all the easy classes for the last year), and entered into the rigorous graduate program mindset. My professors, although kind and uplifting, were strict and demanded excellence from us. I appreciate all that they did to prepare us for ministry in the congregation. The unique draw to Trinity, for me, was that they have a two plus two program. This means that students do two years of academic work at Trinity and then two years of online work while in a congregation. This allows for the students to have great hands-on experiences and learn first hand far more than you can in only one year.

My internship site was located in lowa and pulled me closer to where I grew up than I had been in 10 years. In my internship site I navigated my supervising pastor going on sabbatical, paternity leave, a renovation project, a flood of the basement, a global pandemic, questioning my own call to Word and Sacrament or Word and Service, and so much more. It prepared me for some, but not all of the challenges that come to a pastor, and *but* made me confident that I was on the right track. I then was called in 2020 to my first congregation in Illinois and served there for three years, during which time I met and married my wife Brittani and became the father of two wonderful boys Harper (9) and Niko (5). Brittani and the boys are from Weston Ohio and are very glad to be back closer to home and family. Mine is still quite spread out around the United States, but I am thankful to have my in-laws close by.

Well I think that is all for now but there is definitely more that I could share. However, I would love to get to know all of you as you know me. I look forward to our time together here at First Lutheran and how God will form us in our ministries to come!

Your brother in Christ, Pastor Tucker O'Leary

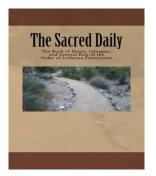
July 2023



Personal Prayer Time

As we look at Jesus' ministry we can notice a few things. He is usually around people, usually eating, and also he finds time to step away from the crowds to sit in prayer and silence. This is key in our daily lives to set time aside to refocus, to recenter, and to realign how we want to interact in our day. Far too often we can be pushed about by the emotions, driving forces, and deadlines of our lives that, end the day cranky, and on edge.

Taking time, even just a few minutes, to refocus on what matters to us can significantly alter our day. Starting July 10th the sanctuary will be open from 11:45 am -1:30 pm for members and people of our community to sit and refocus their day. To be in a sacred space and leave their worries and troubles at the cross. This invitation is not just for Christians, but for all who wish to have a safe space to practice their prayer practices. Please spread the word to your friends and colleagues so they can find rest and rejuvenation at our wonderful congregation.



The Sacred Daily

Sometimes it can be difficult for us to focus our thoughts, prayers, concerns, and feelings. This can be even more difficult when we are intentionally trying to do it during prayer. This is

why faith groups around the world have created different methods to focus oneself.

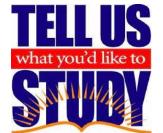
In the Catholic tradition you may see people pray the rosary. In Buddhism or Hinduism it's the Jaap Maala, and in the Lutheran tradition we often have the Clinging Cross. All of these are physical items that someone can use to help focus their mind, heart, and spirit for the renewal practice of prayer.

This can also be accomplished through liturgy. If you would like to take about fifteen minutes out of your day to refocus using liturgy please join Pastor Tucker from 11:30 am - 11:45 am in the Memorial Chapel Monday through Thursday starting July 10th.

In the church there are multiple times that we can be called to prayer and worship. In a more traditional setting, like a monastic community, we are called into seven daytime canonical hours of prayer. These are; lauds (dawn), prime (sunrise), terce (mid-morning), sext (midday), none (mid-afternoon), Vespers (sunset), compline (retiring) and the nighttime canonical hour of vigil. We will be praying the Midday service or "Sext" through the perspective of the OLF (Order of Lutheran Franciscans). If this is something that you wish to join in on please meet over in the Memorial Chapel.



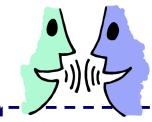
Order of Lutheran Franciscans
Following the Simple Way of St. Francis



Adult Education Survey

Before we get into the "academic programing" in September I would like to know what your interests are as adults in this congregation for further study in our scriptures and christian identity. There will be a survey going on in August about different opportunities that can be offered during our 9:30 am educational time. Current ideas are; Beginning the journey to read through the entire Bible, Book Study, Lutheran Study, or inter-religious study. These may change before the survey goes out or more may be added! Stay tuned to the Foot Prints in August!

2



Time with Pastor Tucker



Wednesday, July 12th
11:30 at Scramblers
All are invited to join the fun!



One-on-One

Starting in July I would like to invite you to stop by the bulletin board and take a look at the new dry-erase calendar. This calendar will be filled with times that you

and your family can set up one-on-one time
with me! I really want to get to know the
members of our wonderful congregation and
learn where your hearts lay in our community
and our ministry. So please, stop by and find
a time for coffee or for dinner with me,
maybe we can even find some midday office
time to just sit and chat. I look forward to
getting to know all of you as we prepare for
the wonderful years of ministry ahead of us!



"WHICH CAME FIRST...'IN THE BEGINNING" OR 'A LONG TIME AGO IN A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY'?"



"YOU'LL BE PROUD... I 'UPLOADED' MY PRAYERS

WOULD YOU LAY DOWN YOUR
LIFE FOR SOMEONE ELSE?
THAT WOULD BE PRETTY STUPID.

YEAH
WHY
WOULD GIVE
YEAH
WHY
WOULD GIVE
YOUR LIFE TO
SAVE THEM?

WHAT IF YOU
LOVED SOMEONE
SO MICH, YOU
WOULD GIVE
YOUR LIFE TO
SAVE THEM?

THEY
WOULDN'T
HAVE TO?

THEY
WOULDN'T
HAVE TO?



work!

Heartwarming stories of ministry through your generous stewardship!

aithful Stewardship to me is sharing my musical gifts with First Lutheran Church each time I play the organ or accompany the choir on Sunday morning. Leading worship in this way is a humbling experience for me and you might say allows me to worship through my fingers.

I treasure my Christian friends I have made at First Lutheran Church and hold them very close to my heart. My prayer partners, Robin Bowman, Sue DeMoss and Jane Ebersole, support each other, as well as pray for those in our church family each week of the year. Prayer changes everything. Look around at what God has done at First Lutheran Church through prayer! Your attentiveness to stewardship and sharing your gifts has made all the difference.—*Miriam Gibson*

Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.
-Proverbs 22:9

Trinity Lutheran Seminary

started Seminary straight out of college in 2016 and was beyond excited to be colleagues with people who were from all different stages in life. Some were college grads like me and others who were in their second or third career. This blend of age group and experience aided in my spiritual growth beyond what I initially thought it would. It also allowed for wonderful opportunities to redefine how we view family and hierarchical structures. But most importantly was how we all were able to enjoy life through a new perspective again. Learning how to brew beer and at the same time have deep theological conversations. Setting up grill nights and playing catch with your colleagues' kids after they get home from school and have had difficulties with classmates. Providing a safe space for people of all walks of life to rest and return to God through study and reflection. Trinity had also implemented the two plus two program which is designed to give students two years of contextual education in the congregation. As a hands-on learner this was crucial for my formation and one of the largest driving forces that brought me to Trinity. Even with all these perks for Trinity, it was the people that really made the place.

I started seminary early so I could take the summer Greek intensive course. I am not great with languages and Greek is a very difficult one for me. I tried my best to learn in ways that I have before but it just wouldn't take. Pretty soon I was failing the class and no amount of charts and graphs and verb plot charts was helping. I mentioned it to my classmates and immediately three guys; Judd, Michael, and Corey pulled me into their group and helped me look at it in a new way. This is what Trinity is. A place where people are always reaching out to include and help. A Graduate studies

program that feels more like a family, and what better way to teach pastors how to go out into the world to serve the people of God than to rigorously test them while teaching them to care for one another.

—Pastor Tucker

Columbus, Ohio

ne Sunday many years ago a little boy came out after worship and stood staring at me as I greeted parishioners at the door of the church. His stare got my attention and caused me to look down on his curious face. He asked, "Are you God?" Needless to say I was startled and stymied, then I answered with a smile, "No, but I am one of his helpers."

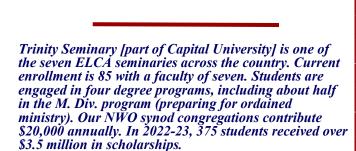
After serving as an ordained pastor for almost 52 years, I have come to treasure my calling as a servant of the Lord as a Word and Sacrament minister. I am definitely *not* God (I don't have to tell you that!) but I represent the Lord in all I do and say. I came to realize that wherever I go, I represent the Church and when I visit the sick, the shut-ins and those in need, I bring the Spirit of Love and Joy with me. In a real sense people don't see me but see the Lord I represent.

I think back upon my student days at Trinity Seminary (then called Lutheran Theological Seminary) and thank the Lord for that special place. I remember especially my profs, men (there were no women back then) who had my respect as they were Ph.Ds and Th.Ds, dedicated pastors and capable leaders, but mostly who had my love because they taught and preached "As One Who Speaks for God**."

Indeed, they were God to me. They were my mentors and teachers and have always inspired me to remember that I am called an Ambassador for Christ.

—Pastor Chris







Welcome all to the July newsletter. Yesterday (June 11) we were blessed by 1.34 inches of rain in our area south of Findlay. What a

joy. The smell. The sound. The ground soaking up much needed moisture. Life is good. Praise God.

Now I don't often read non-fiction. But this time I thoroughly absorbed Barbara Kingsolver's book of essays High Tide in Tucson—Essays from Now or Never (1995). Let's remind us who is Barbara Kingsolver. She authored the Poisonwood Bible (2005), which follows Nathan Price, a fierce evangelical Baptist who takes his wife and four daughters to the Belgian Congo in 1959. Over 30 years, the family tragically unfolds and is reconstructed. And now she just won the Pulitzer Prize for Demon Copperhead, a novel that mimics Dickens' David Copperfield highlighting the social ills of the late 1900's. She was raised in rural Kentucky and lived briefly in the Congo.

In her essay "Making Peace," she writes "Choose a cubic foot of earth, about anywhere that isn't paved, look closely enough, and you'll find that thousands of different kinds of living things are sharing that place, each one merrily surviving on something its neighbors couldn't use for all the tea in China." How often have we looked that closely at nature? Do we have any idea what really goes on in that microcosm of earth?

From this point in the essay, she accepts that other creatures are entitled to their spaces as well. Instead of landscaping a desert territory where she lives, she "abdicates" her throne as the one in charge of her microcosm. Now she feeds the wild creatures, becoming a part of her landscape. Instead of flowers, she plants what the land will let her and the lands inhabitants eat.

Kingsolver discusses parenting in "Civil Disobedience at Breakfast". She claims the hardest job of parenting is to clarify the difference between boundaries and bondage. She considers the boundaries she once set for her children to be purely for her own convenience.

Then there is this piece of philosophy concerning our place in the bigger scope of things: "To love life, really, must mean caring not only for the garden plot but also the wilderness beyond the fence, beauty and mystery for their own sake, because of how meager a world would be without them." I think about the Sunday past when four children under 8 years old donned boots, swimsuits and carried little nets and waded through Eagle Creek behind our neighbor's farm. They caught all kinds of critters. Then they came home and read through the "Ohio Division of Wildlife Stream Fish of Ohio" and identified all that they had found including the water snake! I understand what Kingsolver means by "the beauty and mystery of the wilderness." These four were fascinated with their version of the wilderness.

I love her comments on fiction writing in "Jabberwocky." Think about the following concept. In reading a novel, any novel, we have to know perfectly well that the whole thing is nonsense, and then, while reading, believe every word of it. Finally, when we're done with it, we find that we're a bit different from what we were before we read it, that we have been changed a little. The artist deals with what cannot be said in words. The novelist says in words what cannot be said in words. I like the paradox.

God bless and keep reading. Kathy Brooks (kathleenbrooks15@gmail.com)

"Society is crying out for kindness, compassion, sense and sensibility
One person at a time."
Author unknown



WELCA July 2023

Rachel Circle is in service for July

July 16 Program book information due

July 17 Hannah Circle – Dinner out, 6:00 La Charitta—N. Main Street

July 30 Cookie Sunday – Rachel Circle

WELCA MISSION

Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

WELCA PURPOSE

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

L.I.F.T.

Living in Faith and Trust



L.I.F.T. - will meet on Tuesday, July 18 at 11:30 for a brown bag lunch, depending on weather, either at the church pavilion of in the church Fellowship Hall. If you plan on attending, or need a ride, please contact Sue DeMoss at 419-306-9994 or Marilynn Dunn at 419-722-8543.



October 13 & 14

Church Rummage Sale and possible Bake Sale

Bring clean, gently used clothing and items and place them in the Rummage Sale Room. We cannot accept TV's or flammable liquids. Questions: Call Mary Lou McCann at 419-348-6164.

Coming Soon! Calling all Habitat Builder Volunteers!

This is an early notice! First Lutheran will partner with Trinity Lutheran and Arcadia Lutheran to help with the Apostle Build beginning in August, the building committee will be meeting to decide on working shift days and work required. This will be mid to late August or mid to late September. A food committee is also needed to provide breakfast, snacks and lunch for the workers. Watch for more information coming soon!!!





★ Dear Boys and Girls,

Thank you so much for the wonderful surprise birthday box full of candies and homemade birthday cards. It was so nice of you to remember me but I do believe my Aunt Bev probably had a little something to do with it. She likes to surprise people too. I loved all your cards and drawings. I can get candy on the ship but not all my favorites, so it was great to have some of my all time favorites!

I was just in Belgium a few weeks ago. We're on our way to some where else, but I can't tell you where we are going until we get there or possible on way home.

Thank you for praying for me and all of my Sailors. All of our Sailors and Soldiers need prayers for safety. We will pray for you too.



Sincerely, Senior Chief Petty Officer Brian Boyd USS Thomas Hudner Arleigh Burke Ddg 116



We have an exciting opportunity to tell you about. First Lutheran Church is now a participating charity that can benefit from *Kroger's Community Rewards* program. Kroger donates to local charities each quarter. You designate a charity through your shopper's card and a percentage of your spending goes to your designated rewards charity. This does not affect your Fuel Rewards.

We hope that the congregation finds this to be an easy and fun way to share in our church's mission of bringing our community one step closer to God. For more information, or how to sign up. contact Rob Leipheimer or a Social Committee member



Food Cart Requests

Laundry Detergent, Toothbrushes/Paste, any Condiments

> All donations benefit Lutheran Social Services. The cart is in the Coat/elevator room.



Stuff the Bus

23

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July 27 – 29.

There will be the famous "blue box" set up in the hallway with a list of items needed for the school year. Please help as you can.

The 2023 Flower Chart is up in the hallway, across from the church office. There are many Sundays that still need flowers to brighten not only the altar, but also either your home or the home of a shut-in. Please consider this ministry as a way to share God's love for His people.



It is with great joy we announce that the campaign to raise funds to replace the current organ have been very successful. The proposal for the replacement organ was

\$194,968. As of Sunday, June 18, we have raised \$205,300. We may now possibly include the moving console platform, proposal price is \$2,250, to make it easier to move the organ around in the choir loft.

With the fundraising complete, we can now move forward to:

A Special Congregational Meeting July 16, 2023

Following the 9:30 worship Service

To approve the purchase and installation of a new Rodgers Organ as proposed by the Organ Committee and the Worship & Music Committee, and approved by Church Council on June19, 2023



Julie Buck (Sec) JaBuck67@hotmail.com

Casey Cox CaseyCox72@gmail.com

Rob Leipheimer rleip@sbcglobal.net

Casey Leipheimer CLeip1428@gmail.com

Beth Meier Beth.Meier@gmail.com

Erin Meier Meier.erin.e@gmail.com KRose13995@gmail.com Daryl Rotman (P) Rotman4@aol.com

Diana Salisbury DianaSalisbury51@gmail.com

Maria Schell Biddy45@aol.com

Arlene Schriner Ollie2bob@aol.com

Jeff Short (VP) JeffShort1991@gmail.com

Cindy Thompson TThompson19@att.net

Karen Rose

Pastor Tucker and Brittani O'Leary Harper & Niko

2637 Hollybrook Dr. Findlay OH 45840

PastorFLCF@gmail.com

567-250-2868

Welcome New Members

Jim and Tricia Burks Andrew Hoke Ron Hoke Charles and Beverly Horn Eric and Cheryl Huttenlocher Rich Orr and Kris Jensen Nina Pfisterer Leslie Tornye Pastor Tucker, Brittani, Harper and Nico O'Leary Caroline Wallen **Bob Wolford**

You may find our new member's contact information in our Instant Church Directory on-line app. If you do not have our directory app, please contact the church office for assistance.



The Endowment Committee would like to recognize our 2023-24 recipient from the Scholarship Selection Committee.

Please congratulate Evelyn Napier who received the distribution from the General Scholarship Fund as she continues her studies at Capital University. We wish Evelyn our best in pursuit of her higher education goals and are pleased to be able to help with her financial needs.

> August Newsletter Deadline Monday, July 24th Weekly Bulletin Deadline Wednesday Mornings

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ALTAR GUILD

Amber Leipheimer, Julie Buck

ASSISTANTS

July 2 - Traci Roth July 9 - Tim Cochran July 16 - Daryl Rotman

July 23 - Pastor Chris

July 30 - Traci Roth

COMMUNION BREAD

July 2 - Jennifer Treece July 9- Elaine Miller July 16- Janet Wobser **July 23 - Cindy Thompson** July 30 - Suzanne Kirk

COOKIE SUNDAY

July 2 - Community Dinner July 9- Endowment/Finance July 16 - Worship & Music July 23 - Property July 30- Rachel Circle

Tom & Cindy Fitzpatrick

DEACONS

July 2 - Janet Wobser, Sue DeMoss July 9— Marilynn Dunn, Paul Brooks July 16—Judy Kipker, Steve Roth July 23—Judy Kipker, Paul Brooks July 30- Steve Roth, Marilynn Dunn

July 2- Jerry Bryant July 9 - Mike Zawisza July 16 - Aaron Ried July 23 - Jerry Bryant July 30 -

FLOWER DELIVERY

Robin Bowman

LECTORS

July 2 - Julie Buck July 9 - Falkyn Roth July 16 - Jane Ebersole July 23 - Arlene Powell July 30 - Gabby Cox

LSS DELIVERY

Carolyn Wilde

SOUND ROOM

July 2 -Toni Poling July 9 -Tim Roth

July 16 - Falkyn Roth July 23 - Tim Roth

July 30 - Steve Roth

9:30





Birthdays

Evan Clark	7/8	Diane Adler	7/20
Mary Kondik	7/8	Rich Orr	7/20
Jerold Bosse	7/9	Eric Timbrook	7/21
Michael August	7/10	Milton Peters	7/22
Ella Zawisza	7/12	Diana Salisbury	7/22
Adelyn Thorbahn	7/13	Logan Benjamin	7/23
Kristan Napier	7/14	Abigail Ruehle	7/27
Toni Poling	7/14	Steven Treece	7/27
Samuel Ried	7/15	Sue DeMoss	7/28
Kenneth Otte	7/17	Nina Dukes	7/28
Tom Dillon	7/18	Matthew Meyer	7/28
Adam August	7/19	Marisa Sanders	7/28
Falkyn Roth	7/19	Cole Benjamin	7/30

Anniversaries

Jim & Kimberly Fultz	7/1/2000	22
Glen & Mary Lou McCann	7/3/1965	57
Arthur & Carolyn Wilde	7/5/1969	53
Gregory & Sandra Rakestraw	7/17/1971	51
Thomas & Cynthia Fitzpatrick	7/24/1971	51
Nicholas & Margaret Maag	7/28/2012	10
Yvette & Andrew Mains	7/30/1988	34

ALTAR FLOWERS

July 2 -Cam Taylor July 9 -Toni Poling July 16 - Tad & Maria Schell July 23 - Janet Wobser July 30 -

10

Forms for your bulletin announcement are available on the bulletin board and at 1stLutheranChurch.org. Flowers need to be delivered to the church by noon on Friday.

Sat	luC-t	œ		15		22		29			
Fri	Franciscans).		9:30am Bulletin Assembly	14	9:30am Bulletin Assembly	21	9:30am Bulletin Assembly	28	9:30am Bulletin Assembly		3
Thu	f the OLF (Order of Lutheran I		4:30pm Organ Rehearsal	13	11:30am * Sacred Daily 11:45am ** Personal Prayer 2pm Snap Cooking Class 4:30pm Organ Rehearsal	20	11:30am * Sacred Daily 11:45am ** Personal Prayer 4:30pm Organ Rehearsal 6pm BSA	27	11:30am * Sacred Daily 11:45am ** Personal Prayer 2pm Snap Cooking 4:30pm Organ Rehearsal		202
Wed	d" through the perspective of	olai piayei ullie.		12	11:30am * Sacred Daily 11:45am ** Personal Prayer 12pm Pastor's lunch 7pm Endowment 8pm Theology Pub	19	11:30am * Sacred Daily 11:45am ** Personal Prayer	26	11:30am * Sacred Daily 11:45am ** Personal Prayer		
Tue	ng the Midday service or "Se)	inctually open to all 101 Felson	Office Closed	11	11:30am * Sacred Daily 11:45am ** Personal Prayer 7pm Book Club 7:30pm Finance	18	11:30am * Sacred Daily 11:45am ** Personal Prayer	25	9:30am Newsletter Assembly 11:30am * Sacred Daily 11:45am ** Personal Prayer		
Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri	* Sacred Daily 11:30—11:45 - Praying the Midday service or "Sext" through the perspective of the OLF (Order of Lutheran Franciscans).		10:15am Prayer Group 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6pm Stewardship/ Evangelism	10	10:15am Prayer Group 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 11:30am * Sacred Daily 11:45am ** Personal Prayer 7pm Property 7pm Social Ministry	17	10:15am Prayer Group 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 11:30am * Sacred Daily 11:45am ** Personal Prayer 12pm Newsletter Deadline 7pm Hannah Circle	24	10:15am Prayer Group 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 11:30am * Sacred Daily 11:45am ** Personal Prayer 7pm Council Meeting	31	10:15am Prayer Group 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 11:30am * Sacred Daily 11:45am ** Personal Prayer
Sun	* Sac **	2	9:30am Worship 11am Community Dinner	6	Noisy Offering 9:30am Worship	16	9:3 0 am Worship	23	9:30am Worship	30	9:30am Worship

