

Dear Trinity,

I came across this Blessing for Empathy, written by Meta Herrick Carlson. It speaks such an important word right now when people are fighting over lives and livelihoods as if only one can matter. Thankfully, as Lutherans, we're accustomed to holding two important values together, seeing the relationship between them, and lifting it all to God. For example, I can and do want *both* the wellbeing of people *and* the economy to be healthy. Since we were created by God to be creative, I'm confident this is possible so long as we can hold both values together.

Let us pray the blessing for empathy, that we may understand the feelings of another, and may empathy start in our own hearts, minds, and words and spread to others!

For Empathy

The world is not lacking
opinions simplified by hindsight,
advice for the weary,
subscriptions to the standardized.

But we are starving
for love that resists these defenses,
that can stand in the midst of suffering
without getting to awkward
or filling the silence with trite proverbs,
wanting to earn its place by fixing
what doesn't need fixing at all.

If only the instinct was to abide
before we explain and decide!

Listen for the Spirit
who guides us into showing up,
who shows us how to feel on behalf of another,
who urges our quiet bodies alongside
the ones who are not broken but lonely,
the ones God loves already and always.

Join us for worship this Sunday when 14 youth and adults lead us in worship!

Consider this

Perhaps you all have been getting more requests for charitable donations lately. We sure have. One you may want to consider is for UPAVIM, the Guatemalan women's co-op we help every year via its scholarship program.

Everything but pharmacies and food stores are closed in Guatemala. The women can't go to work at the co-op, and are worried about feeding their families. The UPAVIM Community Development Foundation that oversees operations voted to pay the women for April, but hasn't enough funds to help them this month. If you want to help, you can mail checks to Trinity with the notation they're for UPAVIM, or send one directly to UCDF, c/o Janessa Landeck, 1700 Sheely Dr., Fort Collins, CO 80526. You can donate online at: <http://upavim.org/support>.

Prayers for the Upavimas and their families are also appreciated. And don't forget to collect your quarters in a jar as you praise God for your blessings. The Quarters Can Make a Difference container will be out as soon as we can gather for worship again.

Thanks for you consideration and prayers.
Kay Falk

Trinity's App

Stay in touch with our new church app! Get it by clicking this link: <https://tithely.app.link/trinity-lutheran-church-fort-atkinson>

This brings you to a safe and secure method to get our Trinity's App on your smart device!

Be up to date with worship & prayer requests. See our social media posts through the app without joining social media! Give directly through the app.

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR.....Judy Almquist, Marsha Anderson, Sandy Anderson, Nick Bee, Linda Doerr, Kim Hannan, Renee Jensen, Ron Kemmerling, Bob Kyle, Phyllis Lang, Steffani Liebel, Rick Liebel, Dan Morrow, Pam Nicholas, Debbie Pierce, Tom Pomraning, Violet Prust, Tim Sawyer, Denny Stark, Shelley Scheurm, Ruth Smithback, Karen Weber, Donna Weeks, Aryzone Zick, Donald Zuehlke and those we name silently in our hearts.

Please join us in celebrating our 2020 Seniors here at Trinity. Please contact Beatrice at officetlc314@gmail.com to provided students addresses so you can send them notes or cards of Congratulations.



Fort Atkinson High School Seniors

Seeger Bos

Seeger plans to join the workforce after high school and pursue his love of farming.

Lexi Dudzek

Lexi will be attending UW-Madison majoring in Biology on a Pre-Med track.

Timothy Hoffman

Timothy plans on attending UW Whitewater majoring in Media Arts and Gaming with a minor in Leadership. He will doing this through the ROTC program at UW Whitewater and the WI Army National Guard.

Jenna Lovejoy

Jenna will be attending UW-LaCrosse majoring in Health and Physical Education. Jenna will also be running cross country and track for them next year.

Nolan Volquardsen

Nolan will continue working as an auto mechanic after he graduates.

Maddi Besch

Maddi will be attending UW-Platteville for mechanical engineering.

Jordan. Strese

Jordan is working and plans to continue working until he decides what he wants to study. This will be a gap year.

Brooke Hartwig

Brooke is attending UW-Madison with a major in Neurobiology.

Cody Zahn

Cody will attend Cornell college in Mount Vernon Iowa. Cody will be studying computers and computer engineering. Cody also gained a spot on their baseball roster as a catcher.

Seth Draeger

Seth will be attending Western Technical College in LaCrosse for business. He also is a member of their Cavaliers Baseball team.

Jefferson High School Seniors

Jordan Wiesen

Jordan plans to attend Wisconsin Lutheran in the fall to study biology and run track.

Patrick Veenhuis

Patrick is not sure of his plans. Patrick wants to try working first for a trade opportunity.



Daily Faith Practices

The Seventh Sunday of Easter (A) – 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Focus: *Encouragement*

word of life

“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.” (1 Peter 4:12 NRSV)

Read 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

“Beloved!” What a beautiful beginning for this passage. The author does not write out of anger or with disappointment, but with love. The recipients are in need of encouragement because following Jesus is proving not to be easy, but rather full of challenges. That is true for believers today as well. Be assured, others have faced challenges as well.

1. *What does the word “beloved” suggest about the relationship between the sender and the recipient?*
2. *How receptive might the receiver be to the message after hearing “beloved”?*

““Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.” (1 Peter 4:12 NRSV) No one wants to be tested by a fiery ordeal. And yet, it is fire which is used to purify gold. Some tests no doubt do precisely that—they test resolve. Pop quizzes are part of this journey of life. Thus, do not be surprised when tests come along. Do not treat difficulty as something strange and foreign.

3. *When did you realize on your own Christian journey that there might be tests along the way?*
4. *How might challenges bring a Christian closer to Christ?*
5. *Do you find Christians today expect to face a fiery ordeal because of being a Christian? Explain your answer.*

Reversals are part of being a Christian. In facing death, Jesus brought life. In suffering for the sake of Christ, we share in his glory. For that we give God thanks and experience a glory which comes from God alone. “But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ’s sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed.” (1 Peter 4:13 NRSV)

As we humble ourselves, we make room for mighty God to be at work in our lives. As we experience anxiety, we take our cares to God. As we die, we too shall live again. Again and again, reversals shape our lives as Christians.

6. *Give other examples of reversals in Christian living.*
7. *How can we discover the might of God when we are humble?*

It takes discipline to keep alert and steadfast in faith. Be prepared to encourage others who face suffering and challenges. Be ready to remind others that fiery ordeals are part of the journey of faith. And in reminding others, we remind ourselves how God is available to help us through challenges. “And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen” (1 Peter 5:10-11 NRSV) Once more, a reversal: from suffering to a doxological song of praise.

8. *What are ways that the God of all grace extends grace to those who suffer?*
9. *Does the prospect of fiery ordeals scare you enough not follow Christ?*

Word among us

As much as the dynamic young pastor was getting a reputation for unorthodox ways of doing things, no one could question his faithfulness to Christ. His life story was one of personal tragedy and challenge, but nothing seemed to deter his loyalty to Christ. Those struggles only strengthened his faith and his passion for the gospel. He took great joy in sharing his own story, including the ways God had been active in his life—bringing triumph from defeat. And he knew God was not finished with him yet. He could not wait to see God at work in his daily life.

Thus, it should not have surprised anyone in the church when he began his class for prospective members from a reading from 1 Peter. “Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.” (1 Peter 4:12 NRSV) This is not the typical verse of scripture read when inviting people to join the church. Who wants to be part of a group who is promised challenge and hardship? And yet, this young pastor loved those in his class —people he just met—enough to speak of the risks in following Jesus Christ who was crucified on a cross.

1. *What is your reaction to this young pastor’s selection of scripture for the prospective member class?*
2. *At what point should Christians learn of the risks of following Christ?*

After a discussion, the young pastor continued with the following words from 1 Peter, “And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen” (1 Peter 5:10-11 NRSV) God promises to be present in our suffering to restore, support strengthen and establish.

3. *How does God restore those who suffer?*
4. *Who does God send to support those who suffer?*
5. *At what hour does God strengthen those who suffer?*
6. *What does it mean for God to establish those who suffer?*

faith practice in daily life

Live among God’s faithful people

The First Letter of Peter is a beautiful and tangible example of one Christian giving encouragement to others. In a day when people write fewer letters to one another, it is a reminder of the lasting power of the written word on a hard copy which can be distributed to people of all ages (no matter their computer ability). Though this letter was written hundreds of years ago, the words still give encouragement today to us. No doubt our fiery ordeals are different from first century persecution when people were literally burned on a stake by fire. Nevertheless, we also need to hear words of encouragement to keep the faith.

7. *Who has encouraged you to keep your faith?*
8. *Who do you know who needs words of encouragement? What is the best way to encourage that person?*

Prayer

Maker of the universe, during our hour of suffering, keep us steadfast in faith. Restore, support, strengthen, and establish us in the name of Christ. Amen

last word

This week encourage someone to remain steadfast in Christ.