

UPCOMING SERMONS FOR APRIL 2020

Greetings to all! This is stacking up to be a different April and Easter than I've ever experienced before! Perhaps you've been thinking the same thing. And one of the things we miss during these quarantine days is gathering together for worship, fellowshipping, and seeing each other—just to catch up. In light of that reality, and after praying about what to do for Easter and beyond, without really knowing how long our quarantine life will last, I've decided the best thing we can do for the Trinity congregation is to keep things going. In other words, I'll continue to study, write sermons, and preach via video every week—to keep us more spiritually fit during these days.

This Sunday, April 5, I'll be doing my 'Palm Sunday' message with the final two phrases Jesus spoke from the cross. On Good Friday, 'The Cross of Jesus' will wrap up with one final message—'The Words after That.' You're not going to want to miss this one! It'll be a great end to our season of Lent.

The one thing I've had to do this week, however, is to rearrange the preaching schedule from Easter forward. Following is what I've decided to preach right now—the one we all need to hear right now. So, here's the schedule for the month: Starting on April 12 (and into May)...

GOD STRATEGIES ... FOR DIFFICULT TIMES

- April 12 (Easter) "Keeping Our Eyes Fixed on God!" Exodus 14:1-4
- April 19 "Being Aware of the Competition" Exodus 14:5-10
- April 26 "Stay Calm & Take the Next Step in Faith!" Exodus 14:13-15
- May 3 "Knowing that God is There!" Exodus 14:19-22
- May 10 (Mother's Day) "Look Today in the Eye and Praise God!" Exodus 14:30-31, 15:1-2

Pray for me as I prepare and share these messages for the weeks ahead, would you? I've never led a congregation through a pandemic before ... and, chances are, you've never been a part of a church who has gone through a time like this either. So, you're in my prayers, too. Promise!

Being disciples of Jesus together... Pastor Rom

"CELEBRATING RESURRECTION"

"Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb.⁴ They were both running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn't go in.⁶ Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings.⁸ Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed—⁹ for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead." – John 20:3-9 (NLT)

Dear Trinity family,

Regardless of our current situation, with COVID-19 changing every aspect of our lives, Easter is still happening on Sunday, April 12. It may not happen in the traditional sense that we know it—dressing in spring colors, attending a local church service, listening to lots of special music, and hearing live—a version of the Resurrection story of Jesus. But whether we're physically together or not this year, Easter is still a reality. The Resurrection of Jesus did take place in history. And we, like all followers of Jesus Christ, should be celebrating his Resurrection! After all, that's what Easter's all about. So, how important are 'resurrection moments' in your life?

Back in March of 2018, after preaching Sunday Lenten services at church, I went home for a light lunch, then kicked back in my favorite chair. While Jane was watching TV, I was on the iPad scrolling through new listings on a guitar site called Reverb.com (the eBay for musicians). Since I play Larrivee acoustic guitars, I'm usually looking for those new listings in particular. So, I'm browsing away and all of a sudden, I shoot straight up in my chair and shout: "There's my guitar!" Jane just looks at me and says, "What are you talking about?" It's here I have to back up just a bit.

In 2014, after two major surgeries the year before, I went through what I'd call 'a blue time' in my life (common after major surgeries). It was during time I decided I was never going to play my guitars like before, so I needed to sell some. Most of the 'letting go' at that time was O.K. I had plenty guitars to spare. But one guitar in particular, I regretted selling almost the moment it went out the door. What was I thinking? (And no, Jane didn't say out loud, 'I told you so!' but her facial expressions said it all.) I sold it on eBay to a guy in the St. Louis area ... who eventually sold it to a guy in California. It was an uncommon Larrivee L-03 Mahogany Top, specially bound with a lighter colored maple, I believe—very recognizable.

So on that Sunday afternoon in 2018, I told Jane that I'd found my long lost Larrivee Hog Top

on Reverb! She asked how I knew it was mine. So I gave her the list. First, it was a rare guitar. Second, it had a custom Small Dog case cover. Third, everything I'd put in the case when I'd sold it was still there. It had to be mine! So I gave Jane the 'puppy eyes' and



didn't have to say much more. She just said ... 'if you really want it.' So I bid the asking price and it was on its way back to Wisconsin.

After I'd purchased the guitar from the California owner, I let him know I was the original owner, had been looking for this guitar for at least a couple years, and knew exactly what I was getting. Needless to say, the California owner was thrilled ... and thrilled for me.

That, folks, is my most recent resurrection story. What was once lost, was now found. What was once dead (to me), was now alive again! What was once (and I thought for good) out of my life, was now back in my life. And I could use this instrument once again ... for the Glory of God!

So, what's your resurrection story? I sure hope the list will include Jesus' Resurrection from the dead that we celebrate at Easter! Why? Because He lives, we too can live, forever in God's presence! That was not possible before Jesus' Resurrection. And if you know anything about what's ahead for all of us, you will be looking forward to that, as a Christfollower. The gift of eternal life, that only comes through a faith in Jesus and all he did for us including the Resurrection, can begin TODAY! You can know the PEACE and the JOY that comes by putting your faith in Christ!

So, what's your Resurrection story? What is it in your life that was once lost, but now found? What's in your life that's been missing, but is now back again? Are you thankful? The Greatest Resurrection story, of course, is the one we celebrate at Easter— Jesus moving from death to life. Because he represented us on that first Easter, the eternal life Jesus made possible can now be ours.

What an incredible gift! Let's not forget to celebrate that together on Sunday, April 12!

Remembering the Resurrection together, *Pastor Rom*



<u>STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE</u> <u>OFFERING</u>

In the coming weeks you will be receiving an envelope in the mail from TUMC. It will contain your quarterly giving statements as well as a few other items for you to read and review. These statements use to be sent out and for some reason we got away from them. The new committee felt it as an important part of our stewardship to bring these statements back to our members, so you can see how you are doing for the current year. It is one of the main steps in many changes we will be making going forward.

We ask you to really look through this information. Consider this when doing so, God commands us to Tithe. That is giving the first 10% of our wealth to the church as it says in Malachi 3:10 - Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse (church), that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

We probably all remember this verse as it is brought up the most of that chapter in the Bible. We do not hear the prelude to that verse often though Malachi 3:8-9, it says that we have cheated God of the Tithes and Offerings **DUE to HIM** and that we are all under a curse. God commands us to give a Tithe (first 10% of our wealth), it is his "due to him" for all the blessings he provides us. Why do we dare to disobey this command, why are we afraid to give up that money to the Lord who gave it to us in the first place? The "curse" is society as we know it, the jealousy we have of our neighbors who always seem to have more than us. The desire for more and more "stuff". It is the curse that prevents us in trusting in God's promise in Malachi 3:10. Why do we doubt God?

My family is in the same boat as all of you, for years we did not understand that it is a command of God to Tithe. Even after we learned what tithing meant, we still



struggled with the idea. We wanted to keep the money for own needs and wants in life. Often thinking, why do we need to aive so much when others aive less but have more in life than us. The thought that we are only going to give what we feel is adequate and it is the other members in church that need to give to make up the budget difference. Some give none and yet we must carry the burden, that's not right you think to yourself. Those are the thoughts we all have, and my family was no different. But it was one of Pastor Rom's sermons about 2-3 years ago when he was preaching on tithing. It hit us hard and we thought about it a lot. My wife Jessica and I had several conversations on the topic before we decide as family, we need to do this; we must tithe 10% of our weekly income. So, we started, but as we all know financial struggles hit, whether it is medical bills, economic downturn, job changes, whatever it might be, we saw them to. We made the decision we could not tithe; it was just too much, and we went back to giving what we thought was good enough. You know what, we were not better off, we still struggled financially, never able to cover it all.

It wasn't till Pastor Rom asked me to consider being part of the SF team. I had already stressed interest in being on the committee as my time with SPRC was ending and I felt I needed to be part of something else in the church. So, he told me he was going to nominate me not only to be on the committee but to be Chair. He gave me a book to read "Maximize", it is the same book the SF team is studying right now. The book got me thinking about tithing again. How can I be a part of a team and ask the members of this church to do something I was not willing to do. With some tough conversations and even with some hesitation on both our parts, my wife and I decided it was the right thing to do, go back to tithing 10% of our weekly income. Why, because it is what God asks of us. It is not easy to do what God commands us to do, but as followers we must keep trying. Financially we are still not where we exactly want to be, but God is working more in our lives then when we weren't tithing. His plan is working, and we will free the burdens with his blessings. Sometimes I wonder, maybe we are where God wants us to be and needs us to be...we all forget to think about that. Learning to be content and happy with where God has us is tough, it is not an easy lesson. His plan and the road we take to get there, seldomly ever matches up with the road we want to take. Like the Lord's Prayer says, "Gods will be done", not ours.

I know the struggles it takes to get to tithing but start by at least giving each week. Then keep increasing that amount as you climb the giving ladder in your life with God. See how God works in your life as he is working in ours. Maybe you feel the nudge from God to make the leap right to tithing, which is wonderful. Either way there are always going to be setbacks you face, but your church family and your Pastor are here for you in those times. The key is not just to Tithe because it is what we are supposed to do. We need to give our Tithe and Offerings every week (or bi-weekly) graciously and gratefully. Be happy that we are doing this act, not doing it with the thought that "I will give this money God, but I expect something in return". That mind set will not have God fulfill his promise in Malachi 3:10. Be happy that God has provided you with the ability to give, when you give in that mindset, then see if God comes through on his promise. When that basket comes around each week ask God to bless your offering and thank him for the blessings, he has given you in life. I look forward to hearing your story on the path to tithing.

SF Committee Chair Josh Marschie



An Ash Wednesday to Remember

From Pastor Rom: At the start of this season of Lent, we worshiped together on Ash Wednesday, which was February 26th. It was a record crowd that evening—about 60 people. And it was, indeed, an Ash Wednesday to remember. As a pastor, I've had mixed feelings about that evening. Did I handle things correctly? Did I do what Jesus would have done? Was I as loving and compassionate as I should have been? The evening message was all about God's love for us through his son, Jesus. The question still remains: Were we listening? Following is an honest reflection of that week's events through the eyes of a longtime member of Trinity UMC, starting with Jesus' words…

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." – Matthew 25:40

It is an interesting Lenten season at Trinity this year. It started during our Ash Wednesday service. I noticed a new person sitting near the pulpit. He looked in need of a shower and

smelled of alcohol, but seemed friendly enough. He participated and listened to the beginning of the service. When Pastor Rom started his message, things changed. When Rom started talking about God's love for us, I saw the man shaking his head no. As Rom talked about how we can show love for God by showing love to each other, he said "no that doesn't happen". The more Rom tried to talk, the more agitated he became, saying "there is no love". Finally Rom had to ask the man to leave. As our guest was leaving, Rom told him that the door was always open to come back if he wanted to. After the service Jason Ehlert said that he wasn't ready to accept God's love yet. Jason hoped that that would change for our guest in the future.

Our congregation's reaction to this event is also interesting. It was said that this church doesn't need that kind of people. If it is true that our church doesn't need people like him, then that drunken and angry man at our service was right. We didn't show him love and we don't want him to hear God's message. Is this the kind of church that we want to be?

And, are we all that different from our Ash Wednesday guest? His sins are inflicted mainly on himself and are very public. But what about our sin? Is it better if the nasty things we say are only to people that we know will approve of them? Is it ok to do something bad in private because we know people won't find out what we did? Maybe we think God is looking the other way when we sin, so it isn't as bad.

Two days after Ash Wednesday, Rom had a God moment. He ran into our Ash Wednesday guest again. He apologized to Rom for his behavior and said that he wanted Rom to pass on his sincere apologies to our congregation. Well, I sat next to him in church last Sunday. He was a different man-clean & sober. We exchanged greetings and I welcomed him to our church. He said that he checked himself into rehab and is now eight days sober. He described himself as a recovering alcoholic. He told me that he has made a lot of bad choices, but that he is now trying to live a better life.

I see our church is a similar light. We also have a past that could be better. But like our Ash Wednesday guest, I see a church that is working on improving. We are showing more caring for all of our members. We are trying to make people feel welcome and are making new friends in the process. We have volunteers jumping in to help where they see a need. We are starting to learn about how stewardship affects our relationship with God. And we are learning the basics of discipleship by inviting new people to our church and by warmly welcoming those who come on their own.

What does the future hold for our special guest? He has a hard road to travel. Alcoholism can be a truly hard disease to conquer. He will probably have missteps as he works his way on the road to total sobriety. I hope he has the strength and finds enough support to rise above his setbacks. I know that I will pray for him.

What does the future hold for our church? We also have a hard road to travel. With the upcoming separation of our world-wide church, there are going to be missteps for us also as we work our way through this challenge. My hope is that we respect each other and show understanding and compassion for all points of view. I also hope for a church that stays true to scripture and is welcoming to everyone, be they rich or poor, cultured or coarse, black or white, straight or gay, young or old. I know that I will pray for our church also.

May God bless us all, Gary Jesse



This is a digital library that is available to all from Trinity UMC. This library of digital resources is also available to our community. In other words, if you're a part of Trinity UMC and you know of someone who might benefit from one of Grace Ministries' resources on this site, please share it with them so they can receive Godly guidance for their lives as well. Samples of resources available:

- **Crisis 101** (Making sense of life when life doesn't make sense)
- **Family 101** (applying the 'one another' principles in the home)

Please check out this new resource that is available online at (grace101.org) Here's how you gain access:

Username: tumclomira

Password: lovegrowserve

TUMC

will award scholarships

...to high school seniors pursuing their first year of higher education in 2020. To be considered for financial support, applications must be received via email by the church office on or before April 15, 2020. Scholarship information and guidelines can be found at: www.trinitylomira.org or picked up in the office. If you have any questions contact Jessica Marschie, the Director of Christian Educations at 920-583-4675 dustyroadgurl@hotmail.com

please note, guidelines changed last year



During this time of quarantine and social distancing we need to remember those members who are most vulnerable. If you are a member over the age of 60 or with a preexisting condition and feel unsafe going out to pick up groceries or run errands, please contact the office (920-269-4411). We have volunteers who are willing to stop on your porch to pick up your shopping list and payment and run your errands for you. Once they have picked up the requested items, they will drop them back off on your porch.

We're all in this together!

Jessica Marschie

The Cemetery Committee is looking for someone to mow the lawn at the Emmanuel cemetery this summer. For more information please contact Glen Wellso 920-905-9511 or Wayne Flury 920-517-1296

HELLO EVERYONE!!

A BIG HUG to you from me!! You know how much I love to give out hugs, but now even fist bumps or elbow rubs have to subside. I know you've all heard it before, as I have too (maybe too many times..) it's going to get worse, before it formed a mother daughter type bond, (I lost my gets better. When I get overwhelmed by all the negativity that's going on in the world today, the coronavirus, politics, people hurting people etc, I have to step back, go outside, take a walk and look around!! I feel the cold brisk breeze on my face and thank God for His breath, I hear the birds singing and thank God for His song, the sun comes out which makes me smile and I thank God for sending His comfort, the rains come and clear away the old and dirty snow and start to make the flowers bloom and grow and I thank God for His beauty that's all around us! But sometimes, we just don't take the time to see. I've always been a person that tries to put the best construction on everything and turn the negative into a positive. God knows what we need and His plan is working. I see the many factories that shut down & notice our air is clearer. I see the gas prices going down, because nobody is out driving; they are home with their families. These are just what I see and feel. Yes, the financial side of everything doesn't look good, but God will provide. Everyday is a new day. God you, keep the faith and put on a happy face. is at work, stay positive! Say your prayers, we can get through this together!!

A week or so ago I mailed out a small package to Gwen Hinz in Denver, CO. I have done this many times before. This package had two very large fake flowers inside (because they brought her the beauty of Spring, without needing any water hahaha), also a wonderful Easter card, I knew she would like and of course a dark chocolate candy

bar. Gwen never knows when she will get a package or just a friendly card, but she always appreciates my quirky things I send her way. The truth is, I love sending her little things to brighten her day, which brightens mine as well. We have Dad in 2001 and Mom in 2007) which surrounded us by our love of music and our Faith in God. When she calls me, or I call her, we chat and laugh on the phone, (we hate to hang up) and the love in my heart soars!! I know she feels the same way. So in these days of negativity, I feel great passing along love and joy to others. Even if it's just a Thank You to the cashier in the grocery story, or a friendly HI to someone you pass (at least 6 ft away) while out walking. It just may brighten their day too. Pastor's sermons are online for everyone to view, or share with your neighbor, which helps keep us bonded together. A song was going through my head this morning, it's an oldie, but goodie...."Gray skies are gonna clear up, put on a happy face....and spread sunshine all over this place, just put on a happy face!!"

Sooo friends, until we can all meet, greet, hug, sing, pray and worship in God's house again... stay safe, stay healthy, stay positive, be aware, not scared, watch God's plan at work all around Keep a song in your heart!! Pam Hilker





Trinity's First Shoebox Recipient Reply!

Facebook Message received from Lilian Erpel Celis at 12:45 PM on Thursday, March 12th

Original Message in Spanish:

Hola desde Chile le agradecemos su obsequio mi hija se puso feliz y gracias a la jovencita que lo envió, muchas bendiciones un gran abrazo

English Translation:

Hello from Chile we thank you for your gift my daughter was happy and thanks to the young lady who sent it, many blessings a great hug



What a beautiful blessing to receive this message all the way from Chili! God knows to send encouragement during a time of doubt and despair. Thank you to all who are using this time of social distancing to share in the Good News, Great Joy of the Operation Christmas Child ministry by working on shoebox projects, setting aside items to donate, saving your quarters for an upcoming shipping campaign, or carefully considering how you can support the ministry by offering a generous financial donation.

The pictures above were received with the Facebook message. A sheet including a loving message, pictures, and contact information were glued to the inside cover of every box sent on Trinity's behalf. **Lila Ebert** and **Doreen Unferth** take note of the doll this little girl now adores. Your sponsorship of these dolls warmed the heart of this girl and many others. Blessing to all past and present ministry participants!



Thank you to everyone who worked on pulling together the Beat the Winter Blues Bazaar last month. Much time was spent organizing items and pricing, collecting silent auction items, making lunch, arranging advertising, selling and clean-up. We raised just over \$1500 which went to our Roof Fund, this year's Vacation Bible School and future women's ministry activities. Thank you for your donations of great "stuff" and purchasing "treasures"!

Pam Wellso, on behalf of Trinity's Women's Ministries

TUMC Prayer Concerns

- Ed Faber brain bleed 3/28
- Caroline Mairhafer (Victor J's Cousin) broken back 3/24
- Catrina Rambousek & Tim quarantined 3/24
- Christina (Cathy Wetzels niece) tested positive for Covid-19 3/24
- Tony O'Malley leukemia, new treatment 3/24
- Tracey Roane (Scott K's Sister) started chemo treatments, doing well 3/11
- Jodi Hernandez (Glenn Eichstedt's Sister) improving enough for a bone marrow transplant 3/11
- Jai Marie Last (friend of Tina Rawlins) young girl with pancreatitis complications 3/11
- Raymond Kittleson (friend of the Kiehnau's) cancer 3/8
- Jerry Danner starting chemo 3/1
- Tina's Friends Mom bone infection 2/23
- Joan Karlson (Judy Stucke's sister) lung cancer, spread to lymph nodes 2/18
- Melvin Schellin (Steve's father)recovering from a brain bleed 2/16
- Cameron Schafer (Lynn Haefs nephew) 28 yrs old with late stage colon cancer 2/12
- George Lund (Judy Lerch's neighbor) recovering from kidney transplant 2/9
- Beau Summers health issues 2/5
- Tracey Roane (Scott K's Sister) recovering from surgery, doing well 2/3
- Mary Mitch (Hartford Shoebox Project team leader) battling cancer 1/22
- Jeff (relative of Menzer's) surgery to remove tumor on 1/24
- **Bill Turner** (friend of Menzer's) heart issues 1/12
- Mary Rivera (Cathy Wetzel's sister) health issues 1/5
- Paul Schwefel (Wayne Flury's friend) prostate cancer 12/24
- Bekah (Hakes granddaughter) gestational diabetes 11-24
- Nancy Feucht (Casey Buske's Mom) chemo treatments for breast cancer 11-3
- Amanda Liebe (Scott Kruger's cousin's daughter) leukemia 10-13
- Ray Wifler (Andy Luedtke's B-I-L) at Harbor Haven 9-15
- Brenda Bergman pancreatic cancer (meal train online)
- Robert Rambousek (Tina's Uncle) undergoing radiation treatment 8-11
- Carl Freitag (Carlene Cardenas' brother) Parkinson's (10 years) 3-6 months to live 8-11
- Kim Wetzel health complications 5/5

TUMC Budget Totals

Year to date needed to meet budget: \$53,859

Received through

3-29-2020: \$39,419.86

Budget Shortfall: \$14,439.14

Our Prayer list covers for 6 months. If you feel someone needs to continue or be placed back on the list, please let Jessica know. Thank You.





April Wedding Anniversaries

- 7 Ryan & Susan Menzer
- 15 Brent & Dana Guell
- 17 Ronald & Sarah Kretschmer
- 19 Walter & Barbara Adelmeyer
- 20 Greg & Lavonne Brasch
- 21 Glen & Vickie Renderman
- 27 Leon & Joan Brasch
 Jeffery & Heidi Zingsheim
 29 Mark & Kether
- 29 Mark & Kathy Lavarda

1.0.0



21,315

10,657

\$65,535.97

as of 3-29-20

20%

April Birthdays

- 1 Dell Beck Sally Muehlius 2 Nicole Scharschmidt
- 3 Riley Menzer Nyle Wellso
- 6 Lindsay Hesprich Gordon Zimmerman
- 7 Ward Hinz
- 8 Priscilla Ehlert
- 9 Kim Scharschmidt Christine Lavarda Lori Winter
- 10 Dylan Bloch
- 11 Lauri Grantman Blake Oechsner Tammy Steers
- 12 Ralph Germain Russ Wendt Danelle Flury
- 15 Steve Hayes Carol Luedtke Dorothy Hake Amber Ullius Derek Dittberner
- 16 Wayne Flury Don Adelmeyer
- 17 Sierra Marzahl
- 20 Amy Unferth 21 Sue Bialk
- Cameron Schaefer Keeley Towne
- 22 Katie Stoffel
- 24 Gena Poetzel Caleb Schaefer Amanda Bodden Jason Ehlert Teagan Hayes
- 25 Brynne Schultz
- 27 Briana Novacek Kristyn Emmer Randi Rosenkranz
- 30 Kevin Rhein Aubree Alf

April 2020 TUMC-Lomira

Worship Services 8:00 & 10:00 AM

Sunday School/Youth Group/Coffee Connection 9:00 AM

ALL EVENTS ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 Palm Sunday	6	7 6:00 pm SPRC meeting (Teleconference)	8	9 Maundy Thursday	10 Good Friday	11 10:00 am Food Pantry
12 Easter Sunday	13 6:00 pm Stewardship and Finance Meeting (Teleconference)	14	15	16		18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 10:00 am Food Pantry
26 6:00 pm Boy Scouts 740	27	28 6:30 pm Ladies Bible Study	29 6:00 pm Bells 6:30 AA & Al- Anon 7:00 pm Choir	30		

Trinity United Methodist Church 300 Church Street Lomira, WI 53048 Return Service Requested

Or by Appointment Email: pastorromtumc@gmail.com churchofficetumc@gmail.com

Rom Pegram, Pastor Church Office: (920) 269-4411 Parsonage (920) 269-7292 Cell (608) 417-0060 Office Hours Tues.-Thurs. 9AM-1PM

WORSHIP SERVICES First Service – 8:00 A.M. Sunday School/Youth Group, Coffee Connection 9:00 AM Second Service– 10:00 A.M

> Church Office Hours: Tues-Fri 9AM-1PM