



Trinity Team

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
10014 81 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T6E 1W8
Phone: (780) 433 1604
Email: office@trinity-lutheran.ab.ca
Website: www.trinity-lutheran.ab.ca

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Resurrection Now

“Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned to him and said, ‘Rabboni!’ – which means ‘Teacher.’ Jesus then said, ‘Don’t hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to Abba God. Rather, go to the sisters and brothers and tell them, ‘I’m ascending to my Abba and to your Abba, my God and your God!’” (John 20:16-17, The Inclusive Bible).

It wasn’t time for Mary to cling to Jesus in ways she felt she needed. I have no doubt that she did need to hold him, after what Jesus had just been through (and what she was forced to witness on his behalf). But Jesus knew her focus had to remain here on earth and not be distracted by a world to come. So he redirects her immediately back to the present where she is most needed: with her community here and now.

So often as Christians, we tend to default to some kind of end-of-life or end-of-days final resurrection, while simply enduring this sinful old world. Our songs regale us with images of heaven and the company of all the saints, and we nurture our hope that, at long last, we will all be together again in final gathering around the throne.

Like with Mary though, Jesus needs to redirect us. Resurrection – new life in community – is happening right now. Jesus returns again and again amongst us each and every day! We are all called to bear witness to his resurrection right now, and to share that new life with one another. When

we force resurrection to become a concept only for some future possibility, we fail to encounter Jesus where Jesus really is: everywhere and in all things.

Our world is not a giant waiting room where we suffer in silence until some kind of glorious transformation. Our world is a gift from God, full stop. It was created by God, in God, for God, and we are humbled to be a small but incredible part of it. Yes, there is sinfulness in humanity to contend with, but this does not mean at all that we are free to neglect it or abandon it as a lost cause. This is why it is vital that people who follow the



Jesus Way engage in active healing and justice work when people are forced to endure powers that strip them of their humanity or strip the earth of its earthiness. Such exploitation denies resurrection! For such evil, we will not stand for! When one of us suffers, we all suffer. We are all called into various

forms of community where God declares new life in so many ways. And so, knowing we are called into new life by God’s voice alone, we work so that we all can experience resurrection in the here and now.

The final resurrection – whatever that might entail and however that looks – is God’s domain, not ours. Jesus shifts our focus from that obsession with final things and places it back into the proper context for us: the *now*. Right now. Our communities need us, and we need them. We need

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to continually encounter resurrection and new life each day, and to share those encounters with those around us. We are fully free to do so, knowing God has all things after-death taken care of.

Even in our brokenness, we are free to realize that this world is God’s marvelous creation and filled with original blessing; we are free to witness the arrival of Jesus in the people around us; we are free to encounter God in the most unexpected of places; we are free to grow in God, be challenged by God, and to be loved by God. And all this profound God-movement is happening in this present moment!

As our world continues to navigate times of deep uncertainty, let us repent – to truly turn around – from trying to control spaces that are God’s domain alone. Let us return to the present, to our communities, and to encounter resurrection here and now. These gifts of community, creation, and connection are all God-given, and we are called to embody them through the indwelling of a marvelous Holy Spirit.



Bishop's Message

Ash Wednesday,
March 5, 2025

Grace and peace to you,

As we gather and receive ashes this day, of course we are reminded of our mortality and our foreverness with God. These are good reminders in our present times when everything seems uncertain and threatening.

With the announcement and now implementation of tariffs on Canadian products, many of us are weighed down with concern for our economic security and our ability to make ends meet. There is a scent of fear in the air as we make our best guesses as to what is coming next. We struggle with “buying” Canadian or cost savings. We’re cautious when speaking about politics with family, neighbours and friends. These seeds of division and angst threaten to drive us further apart.

I pray that in such days we would remind one another not just of our beginnings and end (ashes to ashes, dust to dust...) but of the very real and present God in each of us. We are creatively made, lovingly sustained and commissioned to serve one another. Today, I believe this means we ought to seek intentional and persistent means to support one another. This might mean a renewed Parish Pantry to ensure food security for your congregation and the neighbourhood. It might include a clothing exchange or group purchasing. It could be hosting community conversations to foster collaboration and provide safe places for conversation and meeting one another’s needs.

I believe we, as God’s people, are “built” for such times. Hear again the words of Acts 2:44-47: “All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.”

Let us pray, Creator God, in the stillness of our hearts we know that you alone are the source of all life. When anxiety overwhelms us and everything seems out of control, may your presence be our peace. May your Son embolden our love. May the Holy Spirit raise us to justice. Amen.

Lenten blessings,

Bishop Trish

Bishop Trish

FROM DEATH TO LIFE

In the humdrum of every day
May come the unforeseen
As the woman at the well
So willingly attested
To anyone who wished to hear

In our darkest moments
When dreams are beyond our grasp
And seemly our life is at a standstill
Words of hope fill us with courage
And help us to emerge renewed

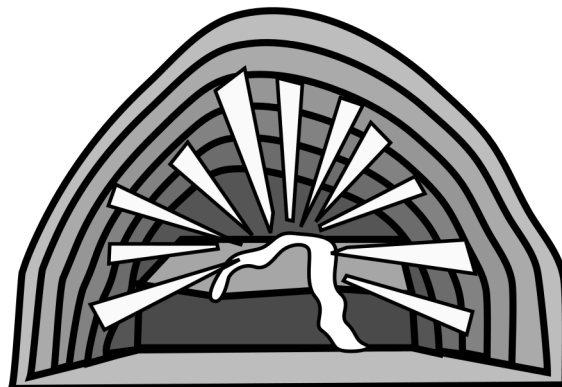
Just as Lazarus lay motionless in the grave
His life spent suddenly at an early age
Two simple words from a caring friend—come
out
Would release him from death’s bondage
Yet, it would take others to unbind him and set
him free

Thus, Jesus who easily performed miracles
Insists on our role in salvation history
As sisters and brothers, we need one another
In our journey toward eternity
With God mindful of every step, we take

On that early morn the woman found
The burial place empty
Her hopes shattered until the Lord appeared
And called her by her name but did not let her
linger
Gently sent her to announce the good news
She had seen the Lord

Even though confronted with doubts and fears
We know that the Lord is ever present
When glimpses of spring emerge
With new life burgeoning all around
And birds sing their alleluias

Beverly Kavanaugh



Council Update

AGM Summary

Happy Spring to you all! For this edition of the Trinity Team, the update from church council will be focused on providing an update from this year's Annual General Meeting, beginning with some general information. A change to our bylaws was made to set the lower minimum size of Council at 6 instead of 9 people. Council elections were held and the council members for this year are: Wil Tonowski, Wauneita Garrett, Justin Molzan, Jon Machinski, and Deena Hinshaw for the English congregation and Anita Witzke for the German congregation. Monica Bishop was thanked for her years of service on Council. Darlene Schindel was elected as the Trinity representative to Mulhurst Lutheran Church Camp, and anyone interested in taking the second representative position can talk to Darlene for more information. A Revenue Generation Policy was also adopted to guide any future revenue generating activities at Trinity. The many committees and auxiliary groups who enrich the life of Trinity provided reports, and the contributions of all who serve in these ways was acknowledged.

There were several key discussions that took place at the AGM, beginning with Pastor Sigmar providing news that he is intending to retire at the end of October of 2025. We also discussed the budget for the upcoming year, including the increase of 6.5 hours per week to the Office Manager position, returning to our historical practice of donating 10% of our revenue to the Synod, and information on the large donation that was made to Trinity early this year. This donation went into an endowment that will provide an estimated annual revenue of approximately \$60,000 to the church. There was also a one-time \$250,000 donation to support the infrastructure budget.

We know that there have been many changes in the church over the past several years, and there are more to come, such as Pastor Sigmar's retirement. At the AGM, church council brought forward a recommendation to move forward with a strategic planning process to work together as a congregation to plan forward, looking at the next 5 years. This planning will help us prioritize the use of our resources in achieving our mission, such as stewardship of our building and targeted use of the infrastructure donation. A strategic planning steering committee will be created, and the 2025 budget also included some money for a consultant to assist with this process. The first step of this planning process was a "Coffee with Council" event on March 9 with a focus of listening to the congregation on what elements of current ministry are most valued, what options for German ministry we might explore, and reflections on ways to live out our mission: "In community with one another, we are called to be the embodiment of God's love in the world." Please watch for more information to come on the next steps of the strategic planning process!

Introducing Our New Council Members

Anita Witzke: I was baptized and confirmed in German at St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Mill Creek). German was my first language. I went to St. Paul's Lutheran Church for Sunday School, summer camp, youth group, played trumpet in the Posaunenchor (Church band), taught Sunday School and played trumpet solos with the organist for Christmas Eve and Easter services for over 10 years.

I studied music and German at Concordia College and University of Alberta. I have been employed with the Department of Energy (Provincial Government) for 37 years.

In 2023 I transferred to Trinity Lutheran Church, when St. Paul's Lutheran Church closed. I attend the German worship services, play in the Bell choir (when time permits). I joined Church council in Spring of 2024, where I represent the German congregation.

I know God will be with me as I start my 2nd year in Church council.

Thanks, Anita



My name is **Justin Molzan** and I am a new member of the Church Council at Trinity Lutheran Church. I was born and raised in Drumheller with my two brothers. During my high school days, I assisted in church through various means; playing the drums, running the sound system and being an acolyte. My connection with my faith is something I hold very dear since my upbringing. It was further deepened during my years at Camp Kuriakos, both as a camper and as a staff member for two years.

God challenges me in new and meaningful ways regarding my faith and I feel he called me to join the church council to deepen my connection with him and the church community. I look forward to putting my knowledge and skills to good use for the church, to help it grow and thrive as Jesus would want.



For the Young at Heart Key (page 6)
3, 12, 4, 8, 11, 5, 9, 7, 10, 14, 2, 13, 6, 1

Change - Resurrection - New Life

Pastor Sigmar Reichel

When my wife and I first arrived in Canada in 2007, it was a week before Easter. The preparation for this holiday was very intense and beautiful here in this country. In the first congregation that we served here in Canada we had services every Wednesday night, starting on Ash Wednesday, during the Lenten season. On Sundays and during other festivities that occasionally occurred during this time, we always ate a sweet bun called a "hot cross bun". This bun was something new to us. It has a cross made of a beige cream in the center, and it is a Ukrainian tradition that was brought to Canada. Businesses were generally closed on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. One radio station, for example, only broadcasted Christian music during the three days leading up to Easter. However, a lot has changed!

In the beginning we were amazed of the diverse ethnicities and traditions of different groups of peoples living here. The diversity of races in this country caught our attention. At the beginning, we were part of a very diverse group, including Chinese, Mexicans, Vietnamese, Poles, people from Arabic countries, Africans, etc. In one of these meetings, a lady wearing a headscarf asked us what Easter really meant. The Christians present were surprised! The question was answered, but for me the question remained in the air for a few days. If you, as a baptized and confirmed Christian, were asked: "What does Easter mean?" What would your answer be?

The meaning of these celebrations is that we reflect on our Christian faith. Likewise, at Christmas time, we should not only tell stories about Santa Claus, but rather that God himself became human in Jesus Christ and wants to be with us. The same goes for Easter. We should not just tell some funny story about a bunny painting his eggs, but rather that Jesus rose from the dead so that we too may have eternal life. At Pentecost we should remember that God wants to send us his Holy Spirit, who gives us confidence, hope and love.

Our Christian celebrations refer to past events that should happen again in our days! Our faith needs constant revitalization and reinvigoration. This is the meaning of our Christian festivals!

Therefore, this Easter should also be a renewal, a change or a new life of faith! Good Friday and Easter bring us the central affirmation of the Christian message: Jesus of Nazareth died on the cross; Jesus Christ rose from the dead. Good Friday and Easter invite us to ask ourselves: "How do we feel about our faith?" – "What does the death and resurrection of Christ mean to us?"

Every person who has lost a loved one starts to think: "How is it going to be from now on?" Family members go to the deceased's grave and often talk to him.

According to the Bible, two women visited the tomb: Mary from Magdala and Mary the mother of James. Perhaps they also took with them a little shovel, flowers and a watering can, just as women do today when they go to

the cemetery. This is something quite common. But suddenly there was a strong earthquake. In the midst of this turmoil, the two women found someone who told them: "Do not be afraid! Do not be scared!" We do not have the ability to give ourselves the needed courage! Someone has to do it for us! We need someone to tell us: "Do not be afraid! Do not be scared!" We need the community of faith!

An angel brings the Easter message to the women: "I know that you are looking for the crucified Jesus. He is not here! He is risen!" The two women believed this heavenly messenger. And by believing in him, they encountered the risen Jesus Christ himself!

These encounters with the resurrected Christ can always be very different. The persecutor of Christ, Saul, who after his encounter became the apostle Paul, experienced Jesus as a blinding light. The disciples of Emmaus witnessed him as an unknown traveler, who broke bread with them. The incredulous Thomas, however, had to put his fingers in Jesus' wounds in order to believe.

Today we encounter the Risen One too, when our faith and hope are present and in us. We feel that there is more than only the visible reality. If at the cemetery we feel the closeness of our deceased loved ones, we also have an idea of the new life. When we sense the peace at the edge of a deathbed, then Christ himself is present. When, during the Lord's Supper, we feel the holiness of God then Christ is gathered with us around his table.

A pastor was once visiting a sick man in his home and noticed an empty chair next to the bed. He asked why the chair was there. The sick man replied, "I invited Jesus to sit in this chair and I was talking to him before you came. For many years I found it difficult to pray, until a friend explained to me that prayer is a conversation with Jesus. He advised me to place an empty chair next to me and imagine that Jesus was there. He told me to talk to Jesus



and listen to his words. Since then, I have had no more difficulty in praying."

A few days later the sick man's daughter came to the pastor and told him of her father's death. She said, "I left him

alone for just a few hours. He seemed so peaceful! But when I went back to his room, he was dead. However, I noticed something strange: his head was not on the bed, but on the chair next to his bed."

"Don't be afraid! I know you're looking for Jesus, who was crucified, but He is not here. He has risen as He said." (Matthew 28, 5-6)

"The Lord made this day, let us rejoice and be glad in Him!" (Psalm 118, 24)

New Life. A Refugee Family's Story

Throughout scripture there are many stories of people leaving what they know and being led to a new place.

In February 2024, Alaa, Nada and Ghassan Salloum

Learning English, making friends and discovered basketball as a favorite sport. He is a wonderful big brother. Alaa and Nada have been very focused on learning English and they rarely need to use Google translate now. Nada continues to study English while caring for her family. Alaa is now working 2 jobs to provide for the family financially. They are learning to cope with Edmonton weather. Spring comes earlier in Syria. They continue to fear for their family in Syria as it remains very dangerous for Christians and many others.

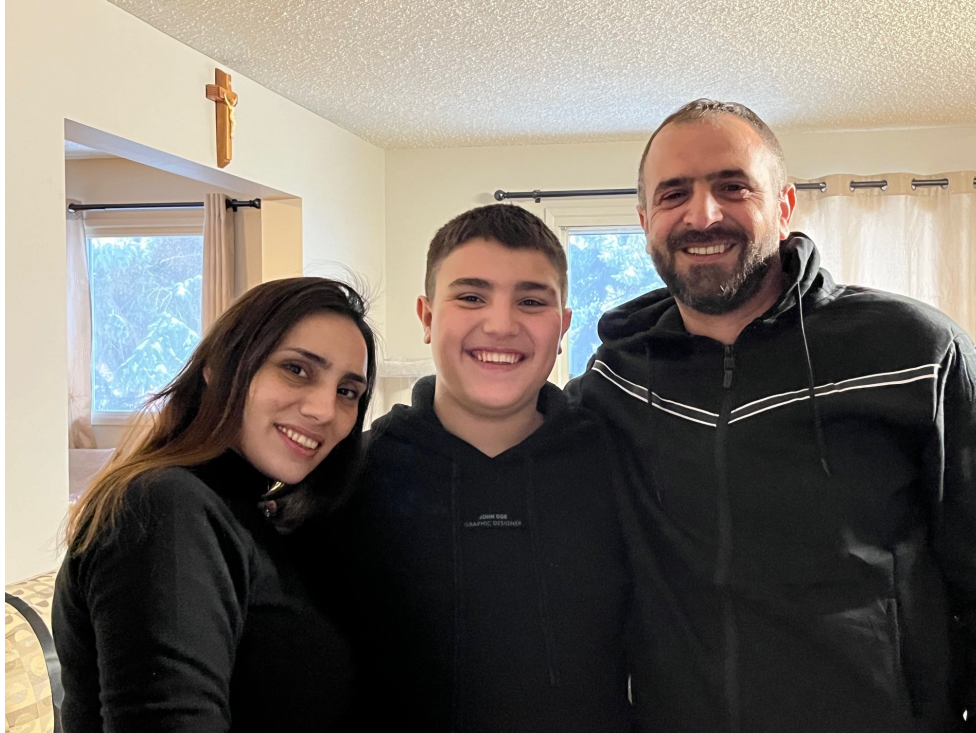
Alaa and Nada express their deep gratitude for the support from Trinity Lutheran and the other churches. Alaa appreciates the conversations and welcoming he receives when attending Sunday morning services.

Please continue to pray for this family and for all refugees and victims of war, hate and violence.

Submitted by Rosanne Thede

"For I was hungry and you gave

me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me".
Mathew 25:35



-Alassas arrived in Edmonton. The story of Trinity's relationship with this family started in December of 2019. Some of Nada's extended family, who came to Canada as refugees in 2017, came to Trinity asking for support in sponsoring this family. Alaa's experience, similar to many refugees, is tragic. Alaa and Nada's families belong to the minority Orthodox Christian community in Syria. Recognized as Christian, Alaa was captured and tortured by ISIS. He managed to escape and fled to Lebanon where he lived in exile for 7 years.

Responding to this family's desperate situation, a partnership was formed with Trinity Lutheran, Holy Trinity Anglican, Glory Lutheran and Holy Spirit Lutheran to apply for sponsorship through CLWR. Support money was collected and put in trust with CLWR and then the long wait began.

A new life, in a new country. This family's first year has been filled with many blessings and expected challenges also. They rejoice at being reunited with family and living in a safe country. Meaningful friendships have developed with several of the people on the inter-church refugee committee. A second child was welcomed to their family. George was born in November 2024. Ghassan is now in Grade 8.

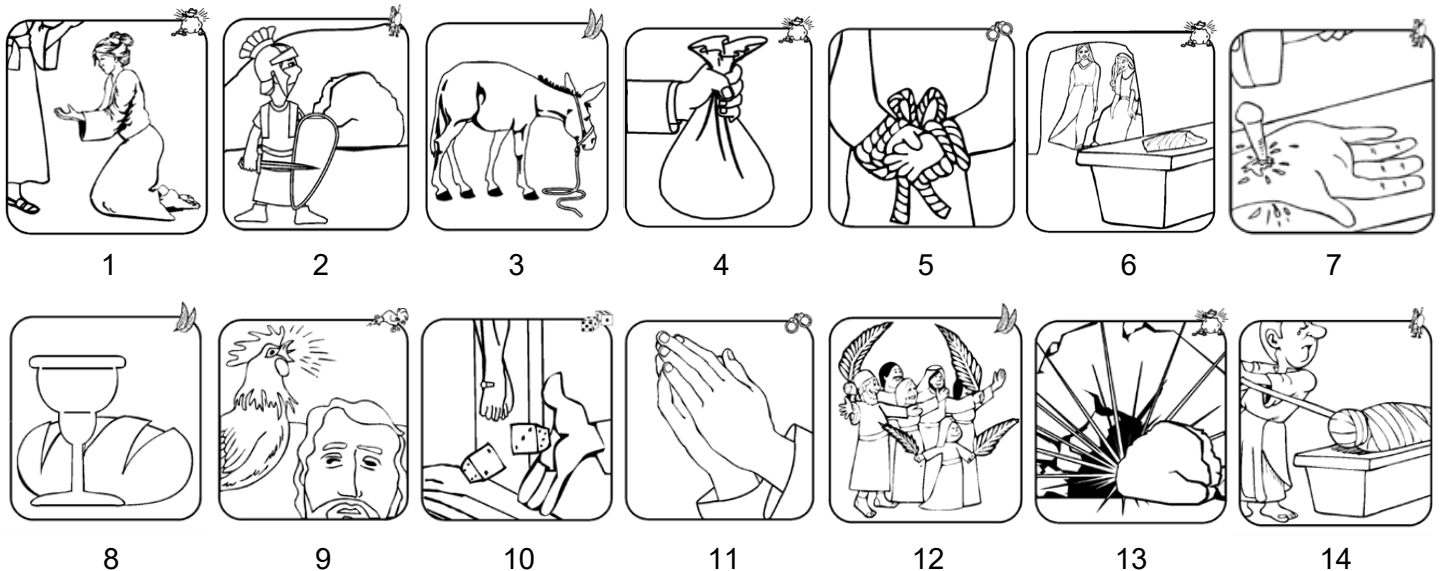


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 G S A F G A T H E R I N G C G
 O T R U S T W O R S H I P U D
 H T I A F E I L E B S Y L O H

ALONE	HOLY
ARISE	HUGS
BELIEF	LESSONS
BELONGING	LIFE
BELOVED	LOVE
BONDS	MUSIC
CHRIST	NATURE
CHURCH	PASTORS
CLICK	SERVICE
COMMUNITY	SHINE
CONNECTION	SINGING
FAITH	SMILE
FAMILY	TOGETHER
FELLOWSHIP	TOUCH
FRIENDS	TRADITION
GATHERING	TRUST
GROUPS	WILL
HANDSHAKE	WORSHIP
HEAR	VAUES

This puzzle is a word search puzzle that has a hidden message in it. First find all the words in the list. Words can go in any direction (forward, backward, up, down, diagonally) words can share letters, and they can cross over each other. Once you find all the words. Copy the unused letters starting in the top left corner into the blanks below to reveal the hidden message.

Hidden Message: _____



FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART
How well do you know the Easter Story?

Look at these pictures from Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday.
 Can you put them in the right order?

Artwork from: <http://www.kids-web.org>. Osterquartett Spiel.
 Answer key on page 3

Called into Worship

Come, praise the Lord - Psalm 134:1-2

Upcoming Worship Opportunities

Regular Worship - Sundays:

- German Worship: 9:30 AM on the second and fourth Sundays every month
- English Service: 11 AM weekly

Special Services:

- Wednesday, April 09th: Trinity hosts the Traveling Lenten Service, 6:30 PM
- Sunday, April 13th: Palm Sunday
 - 9:30 AM - German Service
 - 11:00 AM - English Service
- Good Friday, April 18th:
 - 10:00 AM - German Service
 - 7:00 PM - English Service
- April 20th: Easter Sunday
 - 9:30 AM - German Service
 - Easter breakfast - 9:45 - 11:15 AM - in the Luther Centre
 - 11:00 AM - English Service
- April 27th: Combined English & German service, 10:30 AM with Staff Appreciation Potluck to follow

“I Can Do No Other” by Rev. Dr.

Anna M. Madsen

Book Review:

As a pastor, I’m often asked for book recommendations as people sift through what they might like to read/listen to next. I hope to include some book reviews from the pastor’s shelf in future Trinity Team issues!

I don’t think there has been a book that has made as much of an impact on me in the past six months that Rev. Dr. Anna M. Madsen’s “I Can Do No Other: The Church’s New Here We Stand Moment”. A cradle Lutheran, pastor, and professor, Madsen grounds herself in solid Lutheran doctrine and knowledge, while also pushing back against Lutheranism’s shadow sides, fallbacks, and weaknesses.

Her personal life story is woven throughout – one of incredible highs and some very deep lows. Her encounters with loss and grief forced her to confront some deeply unjust systems of power that led her to realize that, while she still holds dearly to Luther’s doctrine of *justification* (we are saved by God’s grace alone), Luther himself fell short in realizing a broader, community-based need for a doctrine of *justice*: that of confronting the powers of the world in order to rid the world of systemic evils that beat down marginalized communities.

...see Book Review on page 8

Lent Together 2025
Reflection, repentance, renewal

March 12
Mount Olivet Lutheran Church,
205 Fir Street, Sherwood Park

March 19
Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
11223 51 Ave NW, Edmonton

March 26
Lord of Life Lutheran Church,
2710 79 St NW, Edmonton

Wednesdays @ 6:30 p.m
All are welcome.

April 02
Holden Prayer
at Holy Trinity Anglican Church
10037 84 Ave NW, Edmonton

April 09
Trinity Lutheran Church,
10014 81 Ave NW, Edmonton

Book Review - from page 7

Madsen writes "...our focus on private sinfulness has added to public and private suffering: we have lost the sense that we are participants in systems that are sinful and have lost their conviction that repentance might mean overturning those systems – even, it might be said, to our own detriment, when we are one of the privileged" (p.180-81). In short: we have made our private faith more about our own internal

sin than of God's broader community. Far from shaming the church, though, Madsen affirms that we do still need a healthy doctrine of justification, but this doctrine needs to move aside to make room for a fuller, broader relationship with God.

Her faith exists in the "both/and": it has been a gift for her as she has navigated life's trials while deepening her relationship with God, but it has also fallen short in ways the world needs right now, while even contributing to suffering at times. Her call is to all Lutherans who claim to live out a faith rooted in grace: "We are simply being called to put faith into action and to see that faith is deed as much as – and perhaps more than – word." (p.173).

If her words sound challenging to you, I invite you to welcome that challenge and to also choose curiosity about what this might mean for a new Reformation amongst Christians of today. Madsen offers a beautiful and thoughtful critique of Luther's doctrinal stance but also paints an encouraging and hopeful invitation for us all to consider as we share this season of uncertainty together. Her work is certainly one I would recommend you add to your bookshelf!

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office@trinity-lutheran.ab.ca

or drop them off at the church office - Attn: Trinity Team

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Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

