



Tradewinds

The newsletter of Trinity Lutheran Church
Called by Christ + Gathered in Grace + Joyfully Serving
108 S. Robeson Street, Robesonia, PA 19551

DECEMBER ~ 2020

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Parish Planning Council

Jeff Brunner – Executive Director
Keith Malone – Human Resources
Denny & Louise Bowers - Fellowship
Vera Cervellero & Jim Dotzenroth -
Evangelism
Linda Purdin – Social Ministry
Dawn Fry – Lay Ministry
Ashley Christman & Susan Rhoads -
Stewardship
Neal McElwee - Property
Jess Umbenhauer - Christian Education
Meg Vilmont - Finance
Teri Rothenberger - Worship & Music
Josh Mountz – Youth

DECEMBER Revised Worship Schedule

Monday – Friday: Meditations at noon – Live on Facebook
Wednesday: Advent Vespers at 7:30pm – Live on Facebook
Sundays: **9:00am** – Virtual Worship - Live on Facebook
All Facebook posts will then be put on YouTube at Trinity Robesonia
Call in to listen to sermons and devotions at 1-844-923-3188

Dear Friends in Christ,

In the movie *Jesus of Nazareth*, the story of the prodigal son is told by Jesus in the house of Matthew the tax collector. Peter doesn't go, for to go would mean defilement. But Jesus accepts Matthew's invitation to the party filled with drinking and prostitutes. Peter goes down to the water by himself. But he is haunted by the laughter of the party. So, he goes and stands at the door. When Jesus sees him, he tells the parable of the prodigal son, or as I like to call it, the parable of the loving father. Matthew is a tax collector, the younger son, wasting life and money on improper things. Peter, the older son, is angry because of Matthew's waste and what Matthew represents. He sees Matthew as a traitor.

As Jesus tells the story, they both come to him. Jesus brings them together, eye to eye, because the focus is not about them but about Jesus and God's love for them. It is as if Jesus is saying to both of them, "Let go of the past; let go of your pain and don't talk about it anymore. Instead accept one another as children of God, no matter the past, (no matter who you voted for). It is time to become children of God once again, to bring healing to you, your family, our community, our nation, and the world. And we cannot do that unless we are ready to move on together, right here and right now."

For me, it is the most powerful scene in the movie, even beyond the resurrection scene, because it is the breaking of the kingdom in such a real way. It is foundational...forgiveness, love, and grace. If this can't happen, we go nowhere...we stay divided.

So many friendships have been broken by this election. So many families have been torn apart, or just stopped talking. My friends, it is time for all of us to move beyond the past, the pain, the things that were said and see Jesus. Jesus stands with his hands on the back of our necks, bringing us together, telling us it is time to be his disciples, and to make love, forgiveness, grace, hope and new life real, to share it with everyone, to heal the division and allow Jesus to unite us all again. It cannot just be words. It will take action, real steps by all of us, but we CAN do this. We CAN move beyond the past to a new day, this very day. It starts with one small step.

It is time to fill the emptiness of our hearts. It is time to build on the strong foundation of Jesus. It is time to move beyond the past to a day which Jesus is trying to usher in for all of God's children, be they black, white, brown and yellow...Jew, Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Agnostic...female, male, and LGBTQ+...republican, democrat, and independent.

We CAN do this, because of the power of Jesus.

Blessings,

Pastor Bill