

Trinity Lutheran Church & School
300 Broad Street
Menasha, WI 54952

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



“Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” John 1:29

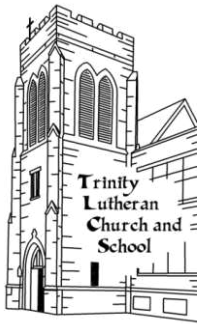
March 2022 Newsletter

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Trinity Lutheran Church and School

300 Broad Street
Menasha, WI 54952

Church Phone: (920) 722-2662 / **School Phone:** (920) 725-1715

Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Worship Services:

Saturday – 5:00 pm; Sunday – 9:00 am; Wednesday – 6:30 pm

Education Hour: Sunday - 10:30 am

In Person & Online Worship Service and Education Hour

Trinity's website: www.trinitymenasha.com

Services will continue to be available for live streaming on Trinity's Facebook page, and for later viewing on YouTube. Check the church website for more details.

Important Dates:

March 1: 6:30 PM Board Meetings

March 2: 10:30 AM & 6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Services (School Sings/Chimes) with 5:15 PM Meal

March 8: 9 AM – 12 PM Circuit Pastors Mtg-New Hope, Neenah

March 8: 6:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting

March 9: 10:30 AM & 6:30 PM Lenten Services with 5:15 PM Meal

March 10: 7 PM First Gallery Choir Practice!

March 11: No School

March 12: 9 AM Food Pantry

March 16: 10:30 AM & 6:30 PM Lenten Services with 5:15 PM Meal

March 17: 9:30 AM K4 & K5 PAC

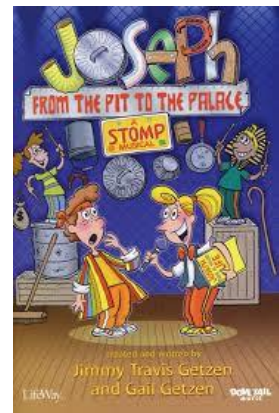
March 23: 10:30 AM & 6:30 PM Lenten Services with 5:15 PM Meal

March 25: 6:30 PM Joseph, From the Pit to the Palace – School Musical

March 26: NO FOOD PANTRY

March 27: 11 AM Joseph, From the Pit to the Palace – School Musical

March 30: 10:30 AM & 6:30 PM Lenten Services with 5:15 PM Meal



March 25 & 27, 2022
School Musical

Holy Communion

We are once again offering the choice of Common Cup or Individual Cup.



Our Mission Statement:

Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Menasha, is a fellowship of Lutheran Christians being empowered by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God and His Sacraments to encourage, refresh, and strengthen both adults and children in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, while sharing His love with those who do not yet know their Lord and Savior.



Senior Pastor:

✠ Rev. Steven S. Billings

Assoc. Pastor/Principal:

✠ Rev. Keith E. GeRue

Director of Music:

Mr. Tim Reuning

Organist:

Mrs. Nancy Lephart

March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30 AM Ladies BS 6:30 PM Board Mtg	2 ASH WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM Lenten Svc School Sings/Chimes 5 PM Catechism 5:15 Meal-Bd of Worship 6:30 PM Lenten Svc	3 6 AM Men's BS	4 POPCORN FRIDAY 2:45 PM Electives	5 5 PM Worship Svc In Person & Online
6 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT 9 AM Worship Svc-In Person & Online 10:30 AM Ed Hour- In Person & Online	7 Pastor's Sabbath 9 AM Sewing 6 PM Prayer Time 6:30 PM Women's BS	8 6:30 AM Ladies BS 9-12 PM Circuit Pastors Mtg-New Hope, Neenah 6:30 Bd of Dir Mtg	9 10:30 AM Lenten Svc 5 PM Catechism 5:15 Meal- Bd of Out & Soc Ministry 6:30 PM Lenten Svc	10 6 AM Men's BS 2:45 PM Electives 7 PM Choir Practice	11 NO SCHOOL	12 9:00 AM Food Pantry  5 PM Worship Svc In Person & Online
13 2ND SUNDAY IN LENT DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS 9 AM Worship Svc-In Person & Online 10:30 AM Ed Hour- In Person & Online	14 Pastor's Sabbath 9 AM Sewing 6 PM Prayer Time 6:30 PM Women's BS	15 6:30 AM Ladies BS 6:30 PM Ladies Aid/ LWML Mtg (SFH)	16 10:30 AM Lenten Svc 5 PM Catechism 5:15 Meal-Bd of Elders 6:30 PM Lenten Svc	17 6 AM Men's BS 9:30 AM K4/K5 PAC 4:30 PM Boys Volleyball @ Home 7 PM Choir Practice	18 POPCORN FRIDAY 2:45 PM Electives	19 Light Set-Up for Musical 5 PM Worship Svc In Person & Online
20 3RD SUNDAY IN LENT 9 AM Worship Svc-In Person & Online 10:30 AM Ed Hour- In Person & Online	21 Pastor's Sabbath 9 AM Sewing 6 PM Prayer Time 6:30 PM Women's BS	22 6:30 AM Ladies BS 4:30 PM Boys Volleyball @ Celebration	23 10:30 AM Lenten Svc 5 PM Catechism 5:15 Meal-Board of Stewardship 6:30 PM Lenten Svc	24 6 AM Men's BS 2:45 PM Electives 7 PM Choir Practice	25 6:30 PM School Musical	26 NO FOOD PANTRY 5 PM Worship Svc In Person & Online
27 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT 9 AM Worship Svc-In Person & Online No Ed Hour 11 AM School Musical	28 NO SCHOOL Pastor's Sabbath 9 AM Sewing 6 PM Prayer Time 6:30 PM Women's BS	29 6:30 AM Ladies BS	30 10:30 AM Lenten Svc 5 PM Catechism 5:15 Meal-Board of Worship 6:30 PM Lenten Svc	31 6 AM Men's BS 7 PM Choir Practice		

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES – MARCH 2022

03/01 WEBBER, Noelle & Merle
 03/05 WRAY, Timothy & Teresa
 03/19 KOHLER, Christian & Linda
 03/30 HENRICKSON, Todd & Dawn
 03/31 GUILLEY, Marc & Sandy



BIRTHDAYS – MARCH 2022

03/01 COLLINGWOOD, Paul
 03/01 DAHMS, Anne
 03/01 KAMPRATH, Alexander
 03/01 OLSEN, Larry
 03/01 VOIGT, Brittney
 03/02 SCHEWE, Lawrence
 03/02 SIEBERT, Daniel
 03/02 WENDLER, Jodi
 03/03 ROSS, Hunter
 03/04 CORRENTE, Nicholas
 03/04 DIESCH, William
 03/05 BURROWS, Richard
 03/05 ERDMANN, Shirley
 03/07 MANTEUFEL, Alan
 03/10 KAMPRATH, Tyler
 03/12 HINTZ, Lorena



03/15 KRAUSE, Darrell
 03/18 JANDREY, Tim
 03/18 MANTEUFEL, Alan
 03/19 DAHMS, Margaret
 03/21 THOMAN, Jane
 03/22 RATZBURG, Linda
 03/23 BARTELME, Deborah
 03/24 SEXMITH, Steve
 03/25 BOSS, James
 03/27 BORCHARDT, Russell
 03/27 MLODIK, Gabriel
 03/30 BORCHARDT, Karleton
 03/30 COLBY, Lee
 03/31 CLEVELAND, Heather
 03/31 GROSHEK, Amanda
 03/31 GUTZMANN, Scott

✝ *Trinity Membership Update* ✝



New Members/Transfers In:

Released/Transfers Out:

Baptisms:

Weddings:

Members Who Have Passed:

Margie Mach - 1/28/2022 Audrey Hansman - 2/5/2022
 Ken Schwerbel - 2/9/2022 Harvey Bielefeld - 2/25/2022

²⁵For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth. ²⁶And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God. Job 19:25-26

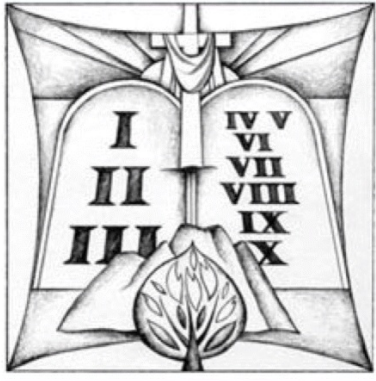
Serving Our Lord with Gladness – March 2022
Senior Pastor: Rev. Steven S. Billings
Associate Pastor/Principal: Rev. Keith E. GeRue

Worship Date/Time	Acolyte	Elder on Duty	Communion Assistant	Usher Captain	Greeter	Altar Guild
Mar 2: 10:30 am Mar 2: 6:30 pm	Mirella Taschner	Tom Harrmann		Volunteers Volunteers		Jean Zeinert Laurel Wirth
Mar 5: 5:00 pm Mar 6: 9:00 am Mar 9: 10:30 am Mar 9: 6:30 pm	Braelyn Boss Melani Gast Dylan Kobs	Robert Allen Craig Thomas Bruce Gast	Bruce Buksyk Steve Sexmith	Jerry Maynard Steve Sexmith Volunteers Volunteers	Barb Kester Jane Nielsen	Paula Reichert Jane Nielsen Jean Zeinert Laurel Wirth
Mar 12: 5:00 pm Mar 13: 9:00 am Mar 16: 10:30 am Mar 16: 6:30 pm	Donovan Rausch Levi Kroes Maya Torres	Robert Allen Craig Thomas Dave Collingwood	Lee Colby Paul Collingwood	Lee Colby Dave Collingwood Volunteers Volunteers	Jean Zeinert Jane Nielsen	Paula Reichert Gail Burrows Jean Zeinert Laurel Wirth
Mar 19: 5:00 pm Mar 20: 9:00 am Mar 23: 10:30 am Mar 23: 6:30 pm	Emma Schmidt Mirella Taschner Braelyn Boss	Robert Allen Craig Thomas Brian Ratzburg	Ian Thomas Lee Weinig	Roger Voigt Jim Wittmann Volunteers Volunteers	JoAnn Schultz	Carol Evensen Jackie Kislewski Jean Zeinert Laurel Wirth
Mar 26: 5:00 pm Mar 27: 9:00 am Mar 30: 10:30 am Mar 30: 6:30 pm	Melani Gast Dylan Kobs Levi Kroes	Robert Allen Craig Thomas Roger Voigt	Dan Siebert	Tom Harrmann Lee Weinig Volunteers Volunteers		Carol Evensen Laurel/Connie Jean Zeinert Laurel Wirth



Church Office Hours:
Monday-Friday – 8:00 am-3:00 pm
 Jean Zeinert & Mary Conradt, Church Administrative Assistants
 Phone: (920) 722-2662 ext. 201
 email: ChurchAdmin@trinitymenasha.com





Catechetical Comments

A Series

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

This month we continue our look at The Close of the Commandments:

What does God say about all these commandments? He says, “I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.” [Ex. 20: 5–6]

What does this mean? God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.

Question 84: Where alone does God offer the forgiveness of sins?

God offers the forgiveness of sins only in the Gospel, the good news that we are freed from the guilt, the punishment, and the power of sin, and are saved eternally because of Christ's keeping the Law and His suffering and death for us.

The *Catechism 1991* now asks: “Where alone does God offer the forgiveness of sins?” And it answers by saying: “God offers the forgiveness of sins only in the Gospel, the good news that we are freed from the guilt, the punishment, and the power of sin, and are saved eternally because of Christ's keeping the Law and His suffering and death for us.”

In support of this it sets forth the following Scripture passages:

John 3:16 – God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

Rom. 1:16 – I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.

Rom. 10:4 – Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Gal. 3:13 – Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us -- for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree."

Col. 1:13-14 – He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

The proper distinction between Law and Gospel has been the subject of much study over the course of the centuries. Luther called it “the noblest skill in the Christian Church.” C.F.W. Walther, in his 39 lectures on the subject, states that “without this knowledge Scripture is and remains a sealed book.”

Sadly, much confusion exists even within Christendom regarding this distinction and can be exposed with one simple question: How is a person saved? If the answer includes any works done by that person, the distinction between Law and Gospel – and therefore the very Gospel itself – has been lost.

What, then, is the Gospel? It is “the good news that we are freed from the guilt, the punishment, and the power of sin, and are saved eternally because of Christ's keeping the Law and His suffering and death for us.” Christ earned salvation for us through His keeping of the Law. This salvation becomes ours by grace through faith. †

Humbly in His service,
Rev. Steven S. Billings
Senior Pastor

FROM THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL LENTEN OBSERVANCE SINGING WITH THE EXILES



Gathered by the waters of Babylon, Judean exiles wistfully wondered: Is God for real? If so, does He really care about us? What does our future hold? Will this ever change? God's people had watched their world shatter into a million pieces. They were demoralized and disillusioned. Their disaster looked terminal.

Do you feel this way? Does it look as though your current problems are more than you can bear? Do you find yourself asking: Why did this happen? Why did God allow it? Is there any order in the world? Will God really deliver on what He said?

Isaiah answers these questions in chapters 40–55 of his book. He announces that just when Israel's history seemed closed and controlled by hopeless Babylonian imperial policy, to the shock and surprise of everyone the Lord will stir up a king named Cyrus and a new exodus will explode in the desert! A Servant will be wounded for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities. And barren Zion will be given so many children that, like the old woman in the shoe, she won't know what to do! Standing behind these marvelous promises is God's almighty Word. "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever" (Isaiah 40:8). The exiles are going home!

That's why we are "Singing with the Exiles" as they are restored to their home.

This Lent, Isaiah 40–55 will shape us as we . . .

Meditate upon daily devotions based upon these chapters;
Study texts from Isaiah in Sunday morning adult Bible class; and
Listen to the following sermons:

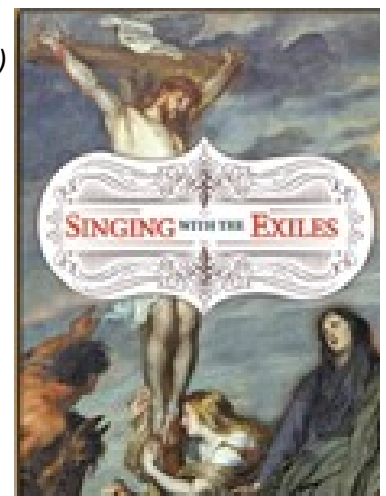
Midweek Series: "Singing with the Exiles"

March 2:	"God Has a Word for That"	(Isaiah 41:14–16)
March 9:	"He Only Has Eyes for You"	(Isaiah 43:1–7)
March 16:	"Marked"	(Isaiah 44:1–5)
March 23:	"Breaking Down the Gates"	(Isaiah 45:1–8)
March 30:	"Get Out!"	(Isaiah 48:17–22)
April 6:	"One Little Word Can Fell Him"	(Isaiah 49:1–6)
April 14:	Holy Thursday: "He Prepares a Table"	(Isaiah 49:7–13)
April 15:	Good Friday: "All"	(Isaiah 52:13–53:12)
April 16:	Easter Vigil: "Nothing"	(Isaiah 54:1–8)
April 17:	Easter Sunday: "We Are Going Home"	(Isaiah 55:6–13)



REGULAR SERVICES:
Saturdays at 5pm • Sundays at 9am
Education Hour at 10:30am

MID-WEEK SERVICES:
Wednesdays beginning March 2nd:
• 10:30am • 5:15pm Dinner • 6:30pm Worship
Good Friday Tre Ore: 12:00-3:00PM
Good Friday Vespers: 6:30PM
Easter Vigil Saturday: 5:00PM
Easter Sunday: 6:30 and 9:00 AM



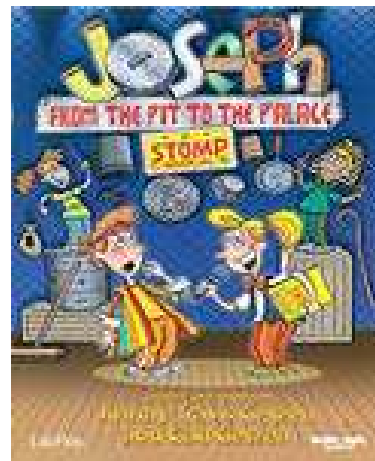
Plan now to sing with the exiles as we learn from Isaiah to walk the Lenten way to the cross and to the empty tomb. God promises to turn our weeping into joy and our present pain into an endless Alleluia!

Happenings at the School in March

March 1	3:45 pm Boys Volleyball Practice 6:30 pm Board of Education
March 2	10:30 am Ash Wednesday Service Student Sing 3:45 pm Faculty Meeting
March 3	3:45 pm Boys Volleyball Practice
March 4	2:45 – 3:15 pm Electives
March 8	3:45 pm Boys Volleyball Practice 6:30 pm Board of Directors
March 9	10:30 am Lenten Service 1
March 10	3:45 pm Boys Volleyball Practice 2:45 – 3:15 pm Electives
March 11	NO SCHOOL
March 15	3:45 pm Boys Volleyball Practice
March 16	10:30am Lenten Service
March 17	9:30 K4-K5 PAC "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus" 2:45 – 3:15 pm Electives 4:30 pm Boys Volleyball Celebration @ Home
March 18	Popcorn Friday
March 19	Light Set-up for Musical
March 22	4:30 pm Boys Volleyball @ Celebration Appleton
March 23	10:30 am Lenten Service
March 24	2:45 – 3:15 pm Electives
March 25	End 3rd Quarter 6:30 pm School Musical 6:30
March 27	11:00 am School Musical
March 28	NO SCHOOL
March 30	10:30 am Lenten Service

Mark Your Calendar!

Please be sure to mark the weekend of March 25-27th for our annual spring musical and auction.



Stewardship Message – “First Fruits Mission Offerings”

In his letter to the church in Rome, the Apostle Paul asks these questions – “For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?”

We each could probably tell our own story about how that precious Word of God came into our hearts. And, yet, there are so many who have yet to really experience that life-changing event. That is why “Missions”, in its varied forms, is such a vital need in today’s world.

Trinity is blessed to have a congregation that supports mission efforts, both within and outside of these walls. Our annual congregation approved budget includes funds earmarked for a range of outreach ministries. The Board of Stewardship has named these funds “First Fruits Mission Offerings”, as they are designed to be given at the beginning of each year. This year’s organizations and individuals that have received offerings range from Missionaries to Bible Translators, to Regional Counseling Services, to Local Care Facilities, to Seminarians at Concordia University Campuses. We are pleased to be able to support former sons and daughters of our congregation in their Mission endeavors.

Please know that a portion of your offering is at work to spread that Word of God both close to home and in places far away. And, know that each and every mission recipient is very grateful for the support that Trinity offers. Please keep missions in your prayers.

Ask our Lord to convince even more individuals to follow His guiding to pursue mission work and the Shepherding of His congregations.

Thanks for your time, prayers, and support!



NEWS FROM UKRAINE

Hello everyone,

It is with a heavy heart that I share that when I turned in my computer this morning, there were posts from Ukrainian friends about how they woke up to explosions. There were emails from the embassy that there had been attacks on Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odessa, Mariupol and other cities. Classes have been cancelled for the day and admin will be assessing how to proceed.

This breaks my heart. Ukraine has been my home for the past two years. It is still home even though I am not physically present right now (I am staying with friends in the UK currently). Ukraine is a beautiful country full of people that I care about: friends, students and their families, co-workers.

However, praise God, so far no one that I know personally has been injured. Please continue to pray for Ukraine, her people, and a peaceful resolution to take place soon.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

Peace,
Amanda

What is the significance of Lent?

Early in the Church's history, the major events in Christ's life were observed with special observances, such as His birth, baptism, death, resurrection, and ascension.

As these observances developed, a period of time was set aside prior to the major events of Jesus' birth and resurrection as a time of preparation.

During Lent, the Church's worship assumes a more penitential character. The color for the season is purple, a color often associated with penitence. The "Hymn of Praise" is omitted from the liturgy. The word "Alleluia" is usually omitted as well.

By not using the alleluia — a joyful expression meaning "Praise the Lord" — until Easter, the Lenten season is clearly set apart as a distinct time from the rest of the year.

Additionally, it forms a powerful contrast with the festive celebration of Jesus' resurrection when our alleluias ring loud and clear.

Finally, the penitential character of Lent is not its sole purpose. In the ancient Church, the weeks leading up to Easter were a time of intensive preparation of the candidates who were to be baptized at the Easter vigil on Holy Saturday.

This time in the Church's calendar was seen as an especially appropriate time for Baptism because of the relationship between Christ's death and resurrection and our own in Holy Baptism (see Rom. 6:1-11).

This focus would suggest that the season of Lent serves not only as a time to meditate on the suffering that Christ endured on our behalf but also as an opportunity to reflect upon our own Baptism and what it means to live as a child of God.



Trinity Lutheran Church & School

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Sewing & Non-Sewing Help Needed

Non-sewing help needed for the Shelter Sewing group. We have been continually blessed with donations from Fair Market of sheets, fillers and much more, to the point that we need help sorting and cutting apart items that have come in. Working at home is an option or come and share the comradery (and a cup of coffee) while working together to make warm coverings for the needy. We meet Mondays at 9-ish. Contact Elaine for more information. 920-470-9090. More sewers are always welcome too!



Would you like to help in this fundraising effort?



Did you know Trinity will take your aluminum cans for our recycling effort? The price Trinity is getting, per pound for aluminum, is the highest we have gotten in the past few years. Deposit your bags of cans in the blue recycling bin, inside Door 7. We appreciate your efforts.

Church Gallery Choir Practice Begins!

The first Gallery Choir practice of the spring season. We are meeting on March 10 (Thursday) at 7PM and will meet every Thursday between then and Easter on April 17, 2022.



Recycle Your Empty Pill Bottles!

Do you have empty pill bottles that you would like to donate for re-use? The Hope Clinic in Menasha collects used prescription bottles. The clinic sterilizes the bottles and refills them for their patients. Please drop off any empty pill bottles in the collection pail in the narthex.

News from the Parish Nurse Get involved in your community

Help out with Mindworks classes at FVTC

Fox Valley Memory Project is looking for volunteers to attend their Mindworks class at Fox Valley Technical College. Class is held every Wednesday from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Volunteers are encouraged to arrive early to greet participants, assist with social engagement opportunities, meals, group participation and stay after for cleanup. Estimated volunteer time is 4 hours. For more information or to sign up, contact Courtney at courtney@foxvalleymemoryproject.org.

Tutoring for success

Fox Valley Literacy is seeking volunteer tutors for about one hour a week to work with adult students getting their GED, learning English, and preparing to get American citizenship. Training and ongoing support provided – no teaching experience or foreign language is required! Learn more about other cultures and support education. For information, contact Paola at paola@foxvalleylit.org or 920-991-9840.

Take care of donors

The Community Blood Center is looking for café attendants to arrange snacks and beverages for blood donors and converse with them to make sure they are feeling healthy after they have completed their donation. Volunteer for a 3-4-hour shift once a month at donor centers in Oshkosh, Little Chute and Appleton. Must be 18. Training is provided. Contact Heather at 920-560-6632 or hduvall@communityblood.org.

Be a companion

ThedaCare at Home is seeking volunteers to provide companionship to terminally ill patients and their family members. Volunteers share their time and talent by visiting, listening, assisting with meals, or simply being a loving presence to a patient. The support provided by volunteers is an essential part of the hospice program. To learn more, contact Jane at jane.shea@thedacare.org or 920-969-0919.

Consider registration desk assistance

ThedaCare Regional Medical Center – New London is looking for volunteers to help at the registration desk or the gift shop in the hospital. Both positions are Monday through Friday with morning or afternoon shifts available. Volunteers are asked to work at least two shifts per month. To learn more about these roles, contact Andrea at andrea.crane@thedacare.org or 920-531-2055.

ORGAN RECITAL BY KOLA OWOLAIBI WHO IS A PROFESSOR OF ORGAN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

- Sunday, March 13, 2022
- 3:00 PM -4:30 PM
- St. Paul's Lutheran Church
- 200 N. Commercial Street
- Neenah, WI 54956



Dobson organ, Opus 32, 1986 (II/24)

Sponsored by the Northeast Wisconsin Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

1685: The Musical Circles of Bach, Handel and Scarlatti

Kola Owolabi is Professor of Organ at the University of Notre Dame. There he teaches the graduate organ performance majors in the sacred music program, as well as courses in hymn playing and improvisation. He previously held faculty appointments at the University of Michigan from 2014 to 2020, and at Syracuse University from 2006 to 2014.

Dr. Owolabi has had an active career as a solo recitalist, including performances at St. Thomas Church Fifth Avenue in New York, St. James Episcopal Church in Los Angeles, The Memorial Art Gallery in Rochester, NY, St. Paul's Anglican Church in Toronto, Cornell University, Pacific Lutheran University and Yale University. International venues include Klosterneuburg Abbey, Austria, Église du Bouclier in Strasbourg, France and the University of the West Indies in Mona, Jamaica. He was a featured performer at the American Guild of Organists National Convention in Boston in June 2014, performing three recitals at Methuen Memorial Music Hall. He also performed a concert for the Organ Historical Society Convention in Syracuse in August 2014. He has performed numerous concerts as organist and harpsichordist with the Grammy-nominated vocal ensemble Seraphic Fire and Firebird Chamber Orchestra, based in Miami, FL. He has released two solo CD recordings on the Raven label: "Sacred Expressions: Twentieth-Century Music for Organ" featuring works by Olivier Messiaen, Petr Eben and Calvin Hampton performed on the historic Holtkamp organ at Syracuse University; and Jacques Boyvin: Four Suites from the Second Livre d'Orgue (1700), performed on the 1732 Andreas Silbermann organ in Saint-Maurice Abbey, Ebersmunster, France.

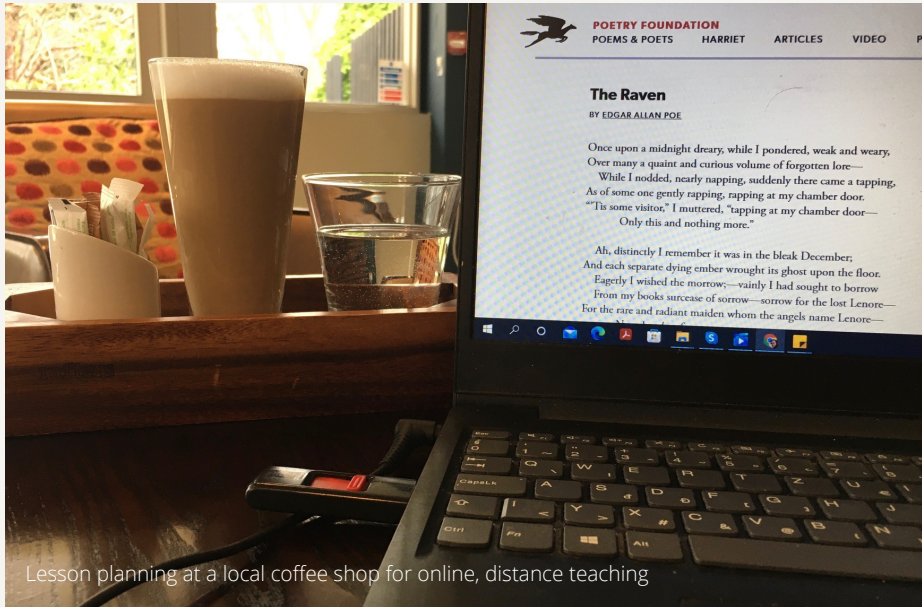
Dr. Owolabi is a published composer and has received commissions from the Royal Canadian College of Organists and the Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto. His solo organ composition Dance was selected for the Royal Canadian College of Organists National Competition in August 2013, where all of the finalists performed this composition. His choral works have been performed internationally by ensembles such as the Santa Cruz Chorale, CA, Nashville Chamber Singers, Illinois Wesleyan University Choir and the Elmer Isler Singers in Toronto.

In 2002, Dr. Owolabi was awarded second prize and audience prize at the American Guild of Organists National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance. He holds degrees in organ performance and choral conducting from McGill University, Montreal, Yale University and Eastman School of Music. His former teachers have included Bruce Wheatcroft, John Grew, Martin Jean, Thomas Murray, Hans Davidsson and William Porter.

YEAR 2, FEBRUARY 2022

CALLED TO GO: KYIV, UKRAINE

*The newsletter of Amanda Groshek
(teaching English, sharing Jesus)*



Lesson planning at a local coffee shop for online, distance teaching

STAY IN TOUCH:

Email:
amanda.groshek@missionofchrist.org

Blog:
[Called to Go](#)
[\(on Wordpress\)](#)

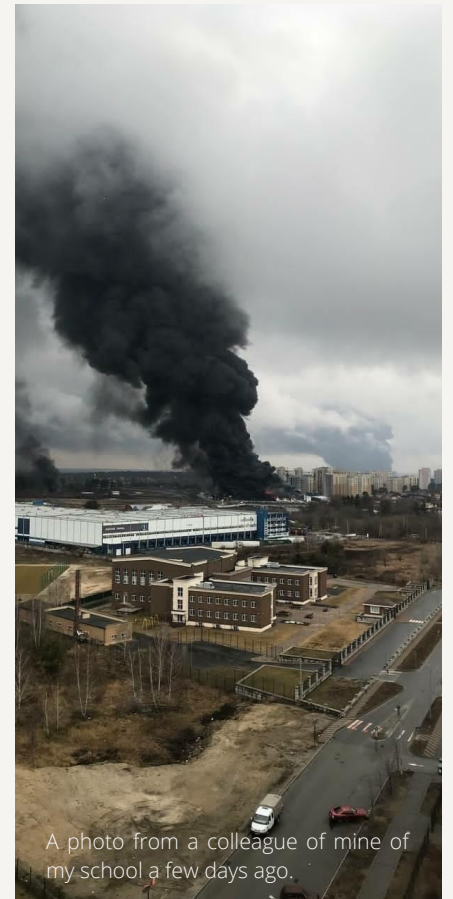
CONVERSATIONS

An exchange with a former student

"I am scared of the war," a former student messaged me.

"War is scary. We can trust God and we can take those fears to Him, but it's also okay to be scared," I wrote back.

With Ukraine being in the news so much recently, several former students from different countries I have lived and taught in have reached out to see where I am, if I'm okay, and to try to make sense of what is happening in the world; and there are no easy answers for the last questions. War is scary. It's okay to be afraid. I think back to a chapel that we had at school towards the beginning of second semester, where the speaker (another teacher from the school) talked about how much they appreciate the Psalms and David because he wasn't afraid to say, "God, I am hurting or angry and I don't understand what's happening, but I know who You are and I trust You." The same is true now. There is a lot of uncertainty, between COVID and the war, but we know who God is and we can trust Him.



A photo from a colleague of mine of my school a few days ago.

When I think of traditional poetry, I think of...



A word cloud my students created when we started talking about poetry.

UPDATE

A brief look at February

I arrived in the UK Jan. 31st and have been staying with family friends here for the past month and it seems I will be for the month of March as well. I am safe. I am thankful that they (and the others who offered to let me stay) have welcomed me.

With COVID, an already scheduled break, and the start of the war in Ukraine, classes have been on and off, but I have been teaching online when there have been classes and trying to be available for students when they need it even when there aren't classes. I have been staying in touch with the admin at the school, students and their families, and friends back in Ukraine.

It's been a difficult month for me, in spite of being somewhere that I love and surrounded by good friends. It's hard to see a place you call home attacked. It's hard not knowing that people you care about are safe or if they'll have homes tomorrow. Yesterday, one of my friends who is living near where I live in Ukraine, messaged me saying that they were hearing gunfire. Later she sent photos. There were billows of smoke rising from a few points, but my friends and coworkers were safe and my building was still standing.



After a day of online teaching

Yet our trust and our hope remain in God, and I have heard of some incredible things happening in Ukraine in spite of all that is going on. Tanks being abandoned or walked out of villages. Villagers are handing out bread and warm milk to people in the long lines at border crossings. Every day people are stepping up to protect their homes and their neighbours. I am so incredibly proud of and inspired by all that the Ukrainians are doing in the face of this conflict.

And it has also been encouraging seeing the efforts of others around the globe. Russians taking to the streets telling Putin that this isn't a war they want. Belarussians blocking train stations to stop military equipment from being sent in.

Please continue to pray with me for Ukraine and her people. Pray for peace. Pray for the end of bloodshed.

And as we start classes back up online next week, pray for my students who are scattered around the world now as they process what is happening in their home.

Prayer Requests:

- *Pray for Ukraine. Pray for peace. Pray for safety. Pray for provisions. Pray for protection.*
- *Pray for my students as they are scattered around the world and trying to process all that is happening.*

