

# Trinity Views

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From the heart of the Pastor . . . Dear Beloved people of Trinity Lutheran,

*I thank my God for you all every time I think of you, and every time I pray for you. I pray with joy, because of the way in which you have helped me in the work of the gospel, from the very first day until now. (Philippians 1:3-4)*

Just as Paul was thanking God long ago, I also offer thanks to God for you and for our ministry together these many months sharing the good news of God's love through Christ.

It was a tender privilege for me to shepherd and journey with you beginning in a rather dark time but ending in a time of joy and celebration. That renewal occurred as we allowed our Lord to lead us again fully into the light of God's forgiving, wise, and transformative presence.

I have rather endlessly reminded you of the joy we share through our identity in Christ—that is, at all times and places we are beloved children of God. Remember always that it is the merciful love of God who is our grounding and stability for good and bad times and is our only grounding for faithful ministry. Sometimes we forget and begin to place our trust rather on our strengths, skills, strong history, etc.

There was a young boy named Tommy, of six years or so, who was to have surgery one morning. Before the operation, the surgeon stopped to speak to the child, asking him if he knew what the doctor was going to do. Tommy replied: "Oh, yes. You are going to cut me open and I know what you'll find." When the surprised doctor asked, "What will I find?" the lad responded cheerfully: "Jesus, of course!"

Just as little Tommy spoke of the unseen mystery of Christ within—for Trinity, Christ in our midst is the source of the renewal and enthusiastic energy which Trinity is now experiencing. In future days also, your rootedness in God through Jesus Christ is the only thing that will bring forth faithful ministry.

So Trinity folks, know always that you are the Beloved of a wise and caring God. May you remain grounded in God alone and allow the love of God both to transform and guide you: as God's Beloved—you can do no other than share the good news of God's love through Christ in the neighborhood and in the community, from the roof tops!

May the Mystery of God's Presence  
guide you and keep you always+

*Pastor Alicia Thompson-Summers*