



# The In Touch

Volume 59, Issue 3

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*Our Mission: To Seek, Know, Love and Serve Christ in all Persons and in all Creation*

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## Ramblings from the Rev.....

**Shared by Rev. Dr. Samantha Crossley**

Unus Christianus Nullus Christianus

No Christian is a Christian alone. So said Quintus Septimius Florens Tertullianus. (Tertullian for short) Likely, the son of a Roman centurion from Carthage in the Roman province in Africa, Tertullian became a prolific Christian author and influential Christian apologist after his conversion to Christianity around 198 AD. The idea of community as a backbone of Christian existence did not originate with Tertullian, of course. The case can easily be made that the integral nature of community to The Way of Jesus originated with Jesus himself, modeled in his dealings with disciples and seekers, with the lost and the broken, with the hungry and the outcast. The indispensability of community to the very nature of Christianity became manifest and explicit in the early communities described in the book of Acts and referenced in the letters of Paul.

On Wednesday nights during the season of Lent, our little Holy Trinity pocket of the Body of Christ breaks bread, slurps soup and worships together with the little pockets of the Body from First Lutheran, Zion Lutheran, Faith United Church of Christ and any others who care to join us. The theme this year is "Created for Community". This past Wednesday we talked about being in community with creation. We will move on in the coming weeks to being in community with all the saints, with our neighbor, with those on the margins, and with Christ. I'd encourage anyone to come - you, your family, your friends, your neighbors, your casual acquaintances. It's an inspiration to hear different voices, worship with brothers and sisters in faith, and live into the opportunity to embody community.

Even if you cannot come (or join virtually), I'm going to encourage you (and me), to give more than a passing thought to community. Specifically, to Christian community. What it means. How we live it. I was reminded recently (hard to believe I might forget it - probably denial) I was reminded recently that this is an election year. Plenty of things in our lives divide us one from another in any given year. Election years, and possibly this particular election year, threaten to bring those divisions into sharp, cutting focus. They make us ever more painfully aware of the "awkward reality of human others". (Williams, Rowan. *The Way of St Benedict*. Bloomsbury Publishing.)

Former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams wrote, "The community that freely promises to live together before God is one in which both truthfulness and respect are enshrined. I promise that I will not hide from you – and that I will also at times help you not to

hide from me or from yourself. I promise that your growth towards the good God wants for you will be a wholly natural and obvious priority for me; and I trust that you have made the same promise. We have a lifetime for this. Without the promise, the temptation is always for the ego's agenda to surface again." (Williams, Rowan. *The Way of St Benedict*. Bloomsbury Publishing).

Archbishop Williams wrote this as a description of residential Benedictine communities, but went on to add, "I realize that I am describing the Body of Christ." That's us. The Body of Christ. One small bit of the Body of Christ anyway, living the best we can manage as Christ's hands and feet and eyes and ears and mouth in this world. The mouth part might be the trickiest bit. We may not live together day by day, but we live together longitudinally, week by week over time. Family by choice. Joined in the love of Christ.

As the church and as individuals of the church we will talk - should talk - about difficult things. The Gospel is all about difficult things. Sensitive things. Justice things. Truth with a capital "T" things. Turn the world upside down things. Loving your neighbor things. Opening your heart things. Talk about them. **Listen** about them. Read what Jesus and the apostles and prophets have to say about them. Pray about them. Leave ego's agenda to one side. As we talk and listen and read and pray, I promise that your growth towards the good God wants for you will be a wholly natural and obvious priority for me. I hope that you will endeavor to live the same promise.

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. (1 Peter 4:8)

Blessings

*Dr. Sam+*



***Watch Holy Trinity Services Livestream***  
*Service bulletin is on our website: [www.ifhtec.org](http://www.ifhtec.org)*  
*On Facebook: Sundays @ 10:00 am*



3/1 - 3/31 ~ Jay Noland  
~ Mike Brennard  
~ Carolyn Mount  
~ Laura Smith  
~ Sharon Wood Leali  
~ Matthew Jenkinson  
~ Linda Krieger  
~ Mandy Windschitl  
~ Diana Russiff



3/26 ~ Robin Monahan &  
Becky Lucas



Faith United Church of Christ, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, and Zion Lutheran Church cordially invite you to join us for our midweek Lenten series – In Community Series.

**Dates**

Wednesdays, Mar 6, 13, 20

**Time**

6:00 pm soup supper

7:00 pm worship

**Location**

All will be held at Zion Lutheran Church,  
530 6<sup>th</sup> Street, International Falls

# March '24 Sunday Service Lay Responsibilities

Dates	Celebrants	Acolytes	Lectors & Lessons	Greeters
<b>3</b> <b>Holy Eucharist</b> <b>10:00 am</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b>	Rev. Dr. Samantha Crossley Deacons: Lee Grim or Melanie Mattsen	Lee Grim Or Melanie Mattsen	Carole Johnson	
<b>10</b> <b>Holy Eucharist</b> <b>10:00 am</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b>	Rev. Dr. Samantha Crossley Deacons: Lee Grim or Melanie Mattsen	Lee Grim Or Melanie Mattsen	Tricia Brennard	
<b>17</b> <b>Holy Eucharist</b> <b>10:00 am</b> <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b>	Rev. Dr. Samantha Crossley Deacons: Lee Grim or Melanie Mattsen	Lee Grim Or Melanie Mattsen	Molly	
<b>24</b>  <b>Holy Eucharist</b> <b>10:00 am</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b>	Rev. Dr. Samantha Crossley Deacons: Lee Grim or Melanie Mattsen	Lee Grim Or Melanie Mattsen	Jeanne Corrin	
<b>28</b> <b>Holy Eucharist</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b>	Rev. Dr. Samantha Crossley Deacons: Lee Grim or Melanie Mattsen	Lee Grim Or Melanie Mattsen		
<b>31</b>  <b>Holy Eucharist</b> <b>10:00 am</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b>	Rev. Dr. Samantha Crossley Deacons: Lee Grim or Melanie Mattsen	Lee Grim Or Melanie Mattsen	Erik Strand	



# March 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 Altar Guild
						Tricia
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Altar Guild
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.			Lenten Service @ Zion Lutheran 6:00 soup 7:00			Tricia
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Altar Guild
 Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.	Ruby's Pantry 5:00 - 6:30		Lenten Service @ Zion Lutheran 6:00 soup 7:00			Donna & Karen
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 Altar Guild
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. St. Patrick's day		Vestry Meeting 5:00 pm	Lenten Service @ Zion Lutheran 6:00 soup 7:00			Donna & Karen
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
 Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.	Newsletter Deadline (Georgeann)			Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm		Georgeann & Michele
31						
 Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.						

