

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
CELEBRATION OF AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM
APRIL 18, 2021

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

C: Christ is Risen indeed. Alleluia!

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

C: Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

L: Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

(Water is poured and all are welcome to make the sign of the cross on their forehead.)

Confirmation families are encouraged to make the sign of the cross on their confirmand's forehead.)

L: We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our soul, like sips of cold water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God, now and forever.

GATHERING SONG: “I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry”

I was there to hear your borne cry, I'll be there when you are old.

I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;

In a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the Word I was there to cheer you on;

You were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong...

PRESENTATION OF CONFIRMANDS:

SHIVON: Dear friends, we give thanks to God for the gift of baptism and for these persons, one with us in the body of Christ, who will affirm their baptism this day. We present:

(As they are introduced each youth is invited to unmute and say hello)

Gabriel Carlyle Krieg - *(Birth date: 2/24/2005, Baptism: 9/28/2014)*

Carter Anthony Pietrusa - *(Birth date: 3/25/2006, Baptism: 6/4/2006)*

SHIVON: Gabe's chosen Confirmation Bible verse is:

Proverbs 18:15, "an intelligent mind acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge."

In his statement of faith, Gabe wrote:

"I believe that God is a loving and forgiving God. I believe that God created the universe and everything within it. With this knowledge I believe I can enlighten the world with the good news of God and in the process grow in my faith." He hopes to live out his faith by speaking up for others who need help or who have no voice.

Gabe's favorite Confirmation promise he will make today is:

"To strive for justice and peace in all the earth."

Carter's selected Confirmation Bible verse is:

Deuteronomy 31: 6 "Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

In his statement of faith, Carter wrote:

"I have needed a strong faith in many situations in my life. I need faith to stay motivated and positive in life. I also need faith in my daily life when I need help balancing my time between practice, doing schoolwork, and keeping God the priority. God is always there for me when I need him. I will never forget the secret to life: Jesus loves me."

Carter's favorite Confirmation promise he will make today is:

"To live among God's faithful people."

(All Congregation members are invited to unmute and respond.)

SHIVON: People of God, do you promise to support Gabe and Carter and to pray for them in their life in Christ?

C: We do and we ask God to help and guide us.

(Everyone re-mutes)

(Congregation reaches out their hands in blessing):

PRAYER/VIRTUAL BLESSING:

SHIVON: Merciful God, we thank you for Gabe and Carter whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts of the promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH:

PASTOR JEROME: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

(Confirmation youth unmute and respond)

PASTOR JEROME: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
Confirmands: I renounce them.

PASTOR JEROME: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
Confirmands: I renounce them.

PASTOR JEROME: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
Confirmands: I renounce them.

(The congregation is asked to unmute and join the confirmands in confession)

PASTOR JEROME: Do you believe in God the Father?
Confirmands and Congregation:
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

PASTOR JEROME: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son?
Confirmands and Congregation:
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
Born of the virgin Mary
Suffered under Pontius Pilate
Was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended into hell
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father
And will come again to judge the living and the dead.

PASTOR JEROME: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
Confirmands and Congregation:
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.

(Congregation members stay unmuted and respond)

SHIVON: Let us rejoice with these brothers in Christ as they go to meet with Jerome and confirm their faith.

CONGREGATION: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

(Everyone mutes)

SONG: “*Borning Cry*”

In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I’ll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I’ve begun.
When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes.
I’ll be there as I have always been, with just one more surprise.
I was there to hear your borning cry, I’ll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.

CHILDREN’S TIME

SHARING OF PEACE

(While the Zoom service continues for the congregation, Pastor Evavold and the Confirmation youth and families will proceed to the church. The affirmation practice has been printed at the end of this bulletin for all to see. When confirmation families arrive at the church please find the bag containing your bulletins and communion supplies. Gabe will meet Jerome in front of the red doors and affirm his faith first. Gabe’s family members will gather at the base of the stairs. Carter and his family will be invited forward for his affirmation when Gabe and family conclude with a picture in front of the red doors. Each family should find their breakfast/gift basket before leaving.)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray. Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 3:12-19

¹²Peter addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made this man walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified Jesus, the servant of God, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though Pilate had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in the name of Jesus, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what had been foretold through all the prophets, that the Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 4

¹Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;
you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

²“You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;
how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?”

³Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful;
the Lord will hear me when I call.

⁴Tremble, then, and do not sin;
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.

⁵Offer the appointed sacrifices,
and put your trust in the Lord.

⁶Many are saying, “Who will show us any good?”
Let the light of your face shine upon us, O Lord.

⁷You have put gladness in my heart,
more than when grain and wine abound.

⁸In peace, I will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, O Lord, make me rest secure.

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-7

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know God. ²Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when it is revealed, we will be like God, for we will see God as God is. ³And all who have this hope in God purify themselves, just as the Son is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that Christ was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in the Son sins; no one who sins has either seen or known the Son. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as Christ is righteous.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 24:36b-48

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then Jesus said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.”

SERMON: Shivon Miller, Minister of Congregational Life

SONG: “Here I Am Lord” ELW #574 verse 1

I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save
I who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord
If You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart.

THE OFFERING

Looking for a way to give to support Trinity ministry? Simply text the amount you'd like to give to 833-610-0635. Kathy will also continue to check the mail and make deposits weekly. Thank you for your generous giving that enables continued ministries.

OFFERING PRAYER

L: God of love, you call us beloved children. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world, for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

On this third Sunday of Easter, we pray for all in any need, responding to each petition with words echoing today’s psalm, “Hear us when we call.”

A brief silence.

Holy and righteous God, for the church, we pray:
for our own congregation,
for the churches of all our neighbors and around the globe,
and especially for Christians in Nigeria and wherever martyrdoms threaten.
O God our Savior, bless your people, and have mercy on us.
Hear us when we call.

For the earth we pray:
for the well-being of terrains, plants, and animals wild and tame,
for the birds, especially songbirds whose numbers are decreasing,
and for this week’s Earth Day, that good will come from the worldwide observance.
O God our Creator, restore your handiwork, and have mercy on us.
Hear us when we call.

For peace we pray:
for the end of warfare, terrorism, and cruelty to the poor,
for a respectful treatment of refugees and all who are incarcerated,
and especially for Northern Ireland and other places of civil unrest.
O God our Sovereign, bring peace to the nations, and have mercy on us.
Hear us when we call.

For justice we pray:
for the liberation of all who are oppressed,
for an end to racial, ethnic and economic prejudice,
and especially for all court cases in this and every land.
O God our Refuge, protect the vulnerable, and have mercy on us.
Hear us when we call.

For all who are sick and suffering,
for those who have no access to the coronavirus vaccines,
for the children afflicted with the virus variants,
for everyone who fears receiving medical advice and assistance,
for those who live with chronic pain,
for those whose pain is known only to you,
and especially for those we name here before you. . . .
O God our Caregiver, heal the sick, and have mercy on us.
Hear us when we call.

For ourselves, when we believe and when we doubt,
and for our dear ones for whom we pray:

A longer period of silence.

O God our Comforter, hold us close, and have mercy on us.
Hear us when we call.

We remember before you all the witnesses of the resurrection,
the saints of old,
those who have died by violence or by the coronavirus,
and especially our relatives and friends.
O God our Resurrection, give us life now and forever, and have mercy on us.
Hear us when we call.

Receive these prayers into your heart of mercy for the sake of the holy and righteous one, Jesus Christ, our wondrous Redeemer.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

P: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

L: May our glorious God grant us a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG: “You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore” ELW #817 verse 1

You have come down to the lakeshore
seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy
But only asking for me to follow.
Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes;
kindly smiling, you’ve called out my name.
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;
now with you, I will seek other seas.

DISMISSAL

L: Alleluia. Christ is Risen.
P: Christ is Risen indeed. Alleluia

AFTER THOUGHTS

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

We Are Fed

It appears the gospel writers knew that people would question whether Jesus was indeed fully human. Details such as how he wept at the death of his dear friend Lazarus, lost patience with those who had turned the temple into a marketplace, and was a bit annoyed with his mother when she asked him to help out at the wedding in Cana remind us that Jesus felt many of the things we feel ourselves.

Similarly, in case anyone wondered if Jesus had really risen from the dead, Luke tells us how, after Jesus appeared to his disciples, he asked for something to eat. This may seem like a small detail, but there's no doubt it is an important one. After all, only people who are living and breathing must eat; there is no getting around that physical need.

However, this detail does not remind us only that Jesus really was raised from the dead. It also brings to mind the many times Jesus gathered around a table with a great variety of people, feeding them in both body and soul. As we remember each of these interactions, we are reminded that even though we do not dine with Jesus in the flesh, today he is still at work to nurture us.

Jesus feeds us through his words of forgiveness, through the love of our family and friends, and through the blessing of community. Most notably, Jesus feeds us at the Lord's supper, where he invites all to taste and see God's goodness and grace. Through bread and wine we are fortified with Christ's body and blood to be witnesses to God's love out in the world as we go about our daily work, bless one another with our time and gifts, and serve our neighbors in need.

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AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM FOR CONFIRMANDS
OUT FRONT OF THE CHURCH WITH PASTOR JEROME:

(Families should find and hang onto their bag of communion elements. The confirmand should stand at the top of the stairs in front of the big red door where Pastor Jerome will join them. Family members should stand at the base of the stairs.)

PASTOR JEROME: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:

To live among God's faithful people,
To hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
To serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
And to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each Confirmand: I do and I ask God to help and guide me.

PASTOR JEROME: Parents, do you promise to support **(Gabe/Carter)** and to pray for them in their life in Christ?

Parents: We do and we ask God to help and guide us.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

(Everyone reaches out their hands in the direction of the confirmand)

PASTOR JEROME:

Let us pray: We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

PASTOR JEROME: Father in heaven for Jesus' sake, stir up in **(Gabe/Carter)** the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm his faith, guide his life, empower him in serving, give him patience in suffering and bring him to everlasting life. Amen.

PRAYER OF BLESSING:

PASTOR JEROME: Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made **(Gabe/Carter)** your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, Our Lord. Amen.

SHARING COMMUNION

(Confirmation youth go down and stand with their family at the base of the stairs. Elements for the families will be in labeled bags.)

SETTING THE TABLE FOR THE MEAL PRAYER

L: God of all creation, all you have made is good and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine, gathered in to be one loaf and one drink. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

P: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

L: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

P: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

(Families are invited to pass out communion elements)

THE MEAL

L: We receive the bread, the body of Christ, given for you.

(Everyone eats their bread)

L: We receive the wine, the blood of Christ, shed for you.

(Everyone drinks the juice)

L: For all not taking of the elements but celebrating with us in one body, receive a blessing:
Child of God, May God bless and keep you.

L: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people through Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: Amen.

(continued on next page)

BLESSING

L: May our glorious God grant us a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.

P: Amen.

**Families are asked to take a picture on their smart phone of their Confirmation youth in front of the red doors and text the picture to 218-341-6154. These photos will be printed and posted on the confirmation boards.*

**Each family should take their Breakfast/Gift Basket.*