

TEMPLE TALK March 12, 2023

Good morning It is so wonderful to see so many people here today!

A few days ago when I sat down to write my Temple Talk for today, I could not find the right words. I decided to pray that God would guide my thoughts and help me know what to say. God answered my prayer. I awoke at 5 AM the next morning and wrote most of my talk in my head before getting up for the day. God works in mysterious ways, even at 5 AM.

I was reading about Elephants one day and I learned that they live in groups of families called Herds. Each elephant has a responsibility to contribute to the family. Some are guards to protect the rest from danger. One elephant is the leader of the herd. Some are parents who not only look after their own, but of all the young elephants. Some help the older members of the herd and care for the sick or dying. Each one has a talent and shares that talent with the group.

In many ways, our church family is like an elephant herd. We worship together and fellowship together. We offer help to others in need, both in the church and out of the church. As a group and as individuals, we have responsibilities to help others. We have a caring Father who leads us and always reaches out to us when we stumble or fall. He never forsakes us or leaves us behind.

As members of our Trinity family, we also have a responsibility to share our Time, Talents and Resources with each other for the good of the group. As the saying goes, "Many hands make light work".

When I pray each day, I ask God to show me where I can serve Him today and everyday. I make soup or a casserole to take with me when I visit shut-ins, I take treats to friends in Nursing homes, I give Communion to those who can not get to church, I help others with Grocery shopping, I volunteer to Teach a "water aerobics" class at the YMCA, and exercise 2 hours 3 days a week so that I can stay healthy to do God's work. It never ceases to amaze me where God directs me to serve Him. One day when I walked into the in the grocery store I saw a woman who looked bewildered and I asked if she needed help. 45 minutes later after a lot of listening to her concerns she seemed ready to get on with her day, and I said "Thank you God for letting me serve you today". I love serving God!! Remember, You can not give a hug without getting one in return. Smile as you pass someone, compliment someone, let someone out in traffic when driving, hold a door open for someone else, say thank you to a grocery store clerk, etc. Serving God does not always require spending money. Some of our church family share their musical talent, some serve on important committees, others work tirelessly to make sure this Congregation continues to function with or without a permanent Pastor, or a leader of our Herd.

One of my favorite Bible verses is from John chapter 15 verse 12, "My command is this: Love one another as I have loved you". To quote a concept from Dr. Seuss, Please love each other no matter the color of your eyes or if you have curly hair, or straight hair. Accept each other as fellow travelers on this path of life. Let's ALL work together for the good of ALL!

We must also serve God by providing the necessary money to continue God's work here at our beloved church. Our financial people need to prepare a budget each year to be ready for our new fiscal year which starts on July 1st.

Please give prayerful consideration to making a pledge - To make a promise. It is difficult to know how to spend money unless we have an idea of how much money is available. If 100 people make a pledge, the church will get an additional \$8,000 dollars as a gift from 2 wonderful members. Please help this to happen!! The Bible instructs us to set aside 10% of our take home pay to support the work of our church. Can you do this?? If not, please prayerfully give what you can. Life is full of many choices. Pray that God will help you make this choice a reality! Please continue to share your Time, Talents and Financial gifts for the growth and stability for our beloved Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. God loves each of us and He always answers our prayers.

Thank you!

Barbara Montgomery