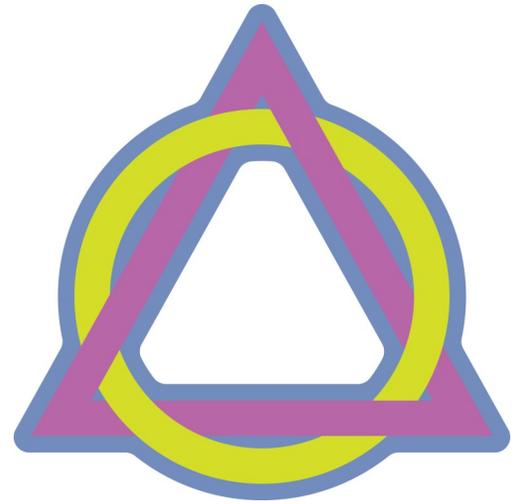


# COLLOQUIES with Pastor Brian

## Working On the Trifecta

Greetings Church Family!

**M**y family is returning from vacation with the privilege of perspective and rest. And one of the things soothing my heart is hearing our children saying they are 'excited to get HOME'. They mean **Minnesota!** We had a great time on vacation. We saw people we love, stayed in places we appreciate. Yet they consider our community and space in Esko as home. This makes my heart glad! It means the seeds we are planting by living with new people in a new place are taking root in our boys' hearts. As parents, we pray for this. We want our children to find solace in their creation and be content to grow where they are planted. Now we return to Esko to keep this growth alive and prospering for God's kingdom.



This is what we all are about in this life together. Finding ways to gather God's work in us and to find peace in this discovery. A couple of days before leaving for vacation, I witnessed for each other's growth and joy, finding ways to remember several places where growth was happening. I attended a funeral where the family of the departed celebrated the joy and love these beloved souls left behind. Later that day at a baptism, we celebrated another child of God only this time, less than a year old. We talked about cultivating lives of faith around him so that he would grow WITH us and know of God's purpose for him and his life. Finally, the day ended with two middle-aged adults sharing in vows to marry, knowing better than many they were walking into a garden of opportunity that needs constant care and cultivation under God's nurturing leadership.

After sharing about this rare occurrence on Facebook, a friend offered I had participated in the pastoral Trifecta. And as I considered this, a different thought came to my mind. We are all working on participating in some version of this Trifecta, as it were. All of us in the Christian life have a place or places where we claimed Faith or had it claimed for us. All of us have places in our lives when we declare through our actions, our words, or both who it is that will be traveling with us in this journey of growth and faith. And all of us, save Jesus, Enoch (maybe) and Elijah, can fully expect at some point to "die" and pass into another version of God's kingdom. So we are all working on the Trifecta.

As your pastor, I want our whole church family to experience growth in God's kingdom. These are different days from ones we've experienced before, yet God's care and instructions anticipate changes in our lives. And God's invitation to enter The Kingdom never wavers; Jesus constantly tells us how we might recognize the kingdom in us and around us.

My hope for the coming weeks is to explore more fully how we are growing and to encourage all of us to enter more fully God's work in us and in the community around us. My family is returning to Esko, MN and we are encouraged to continue God's work while celebrating the coming Kingdom.

Peace to you,

Pastor Brian