

TRINITY HIGHLIGHTS

FEBRUARY 2021

*The monthly newsletter of
Trinity Lutheran Church
Greencastle, PA*

Dear Family,

As I write this letter, we are right in the middle of the season of Epiphany. Epiphany means “to reveal.” The first day of Epiphany we celebrate the day the wisemen came to worship the newborn king led by a star. We will spend the Sundays before Lent exploring who this Jesus is that was revealed to the nations by the wisemen.

Lent arrives Feb 17 with Ash Wednesday. With Covid still creating challenges for us, Ash Wednesday will be different this year as well. The Ash Wednesday service will be held on Facebook Live at 7PM and then downloaded to YouTube and the website after the service. The bulletin will be emailed to everyone on our email list and posted to the website with the Sunday bulletins. (Click news and events then bulletins).

Ashes are an important physical sign on Ash Wednesday. Ancient Jews used ashes as both a sign of grief and repentance. We grieve our sin - moving away from God. We repent – desiring to change direction, change our minds, and live more aligned with the flow of God’s love. We mark our foreheads in the shape of the cross as we look forward to the cross as a sign of God’s reconciliation with all creation.

Ashes also connect us with our own mortality. We’re reminded that we are creatures and rely on God. The words we use to form the cross come from the first book of the Hebrew Bible, Genesis.

*By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread
until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken;
you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Genesis 3: 19*

The safest way to use ashes this year is for each family to receive a packet of ashes and apply it themselves. We will have packets of ashes in the office beginning Feb 8. Come by and pick yours up. If that’s a challenge, give the office a call (717-597-9348) or email (tlcsecoffice@gmail.com) and someone will bring ashes by and leave them on your porch. The office is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 9AM – 1PM. If those times don’t work, call for a time and we’ll make it work. We will also offer times on Ash Wed for pick-up: 10:30 -11 and 6 – 6:30. Have your ashes handy for use during the service or we will provide a family devotion with the ashes.

Lent is the season we set aside for reflection. We’ve spent Epiphany in light, learning about Jesus and our call to follow Him. Now, the light dims as we reflect on what distracts us from God, what gets in the way of who we are meant to be as beloved children of God.

Daily intentional spiritual practice puts space in our lives for the Holy Spirit to come and dwell and transform. Some of the traditional are Bible reading, fasting, generous giving of money, time or talents, prayer and meditation, spiritual friendship and accountability. There are countless other ways God calls us to a deeper richer relationship. The important thing is to be intentional and take the time seriously.

How is God inviting you to relationship this Lent? Look through this newsletter. There are many ways to plug in spiritually at Trinity Lutheran. As we look forward into the future with continuing renewal, it’s vital that each of us pray for our hearts to ignite in love of Jesus and in turn allow that love to flow out to each other and our neighborhood.

Let us pray for one another as we embark on our Lenten journey together.

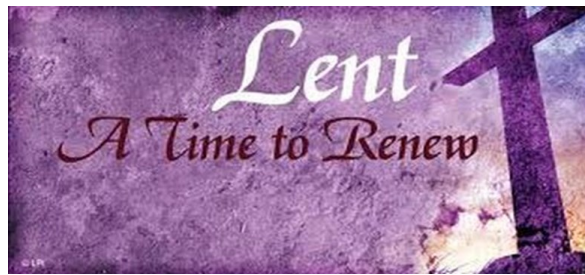
God bless you on your journey,

Pastor Barb





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Renewal Team 7PM	2	3 Bible Study 2PM <i>Worship & Music</i> 7PM	4 Prayer Team 6PM <i>Christian Spiritual Life</i> 7PM	5	6
7 Adult Forum 9AM <i>Confirmation</i> 9AM Worship 10 AM	8	9 Finance Team 7PM	10 Bible Study 2PM <i>Council</i> 7PM	11 Prayer Team 6PM <i>Christian Spiritual Life</i> 7PM	12	13
14 Adult Forum 9AM <i>Confirmation</i> 9AM Worship 10 AM	15	16	17 Bible Study 2PM <i>Ash Wednesday</i> <i>Online Worship</i> 7PM	18 Prayer Team 6PM <i>Christian Spiritual Life</i> 7PM	19	20
21 Adult Forum 9AM <i>Confirmation</i> 9AM Worship 10 AM	22	23	24 Bible Study 2PM <i>Lenten Service</i> <i>Online</i> 7PM	25 Prayer Team 6PM <i>Christian Spiritual Life</i> 7PM	26	27
28 Adult Forum 9AM <i>Confirmation</i> 9AM Worship 10 AM				NOTE: All meetings and activities via Zoom or online until further notice.		



ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Join us on Ash Wednesday, February 17 for the Imposition of Ashes, a reminder of our mortality and need for turning back to God. The service will be held on *Facebook Live* at 7PM and then downloaded to *YouTube* and the Website. Come by the office to pick up your ashes for the service or use the family devotion we will supply with the ashes. Office hours are Tues, Wed, Thurs from 9 – 1. We will also make ashes pickup available on Ash Wednesday, 10:30 – 11 and 6 – 6:30. If those times don't work, call for an appointment or if you need the ashes dropped off on your front porch.

WEDNESDAY LENTEN SPIRIT



To continue to protect the vulnerable among us, we will gather on-line for our Wednesday Lenten Services. As we did last year, Trinity will be joining two other Lutheran churches: Salem Lutheran in Marion and Evangelical Lutheran in Greencastle. Each of our churches will host two services and the pastors will preach at two services.

The theme is Community: Created for community, we gather together – apart. God in Christ calls us into community. We often operate on the assumption that this means face to face gathering at a specific location. Covid has forced us to re-evaluate. This series is for us to take a deeper look at the varied ways we are called into community. We are hardwired for belonging. Using readings from Mark's gospel, we will reflect on what it means to be in community with one another, with the world, with creation, and with God.

The themes are : In community with – Creation, the saints, our neighbors, those on the margins, with Christ and finally acknowledging we are the community of the forgiven.

Trinity will be hosting on March 3 and March 24. Trinity's services will be on *Facebook Live* at 7PM and then downloaded to *YouTube* and the website. The services hosted by Salem and ELC will be taped and placed on the website by 7PM Wednesday evening.

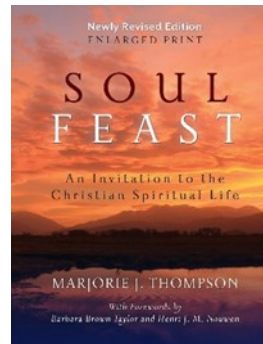
SUNDAY MORNING ADULT FORUM

Adult Forum (Sunday School Conversation) will resume on February 7 on Sunday mornings from 9 – 9:30 via Zoom. Once we move back into the sanctuary, this will give anyone who wants to come to in-person worship time to get to church. We will send the Zoom information via email the week before class is to begin.

LENTEN ONLINE JOURNEY INTO THE CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL LIFE

Thursdays in Lent - February 18 - March 25
7 - 8:15 PM via Zoom

Led by Marsha Roscoe and other Synod Staff



"When we begin to take spiritual practices seriously, the possibilities for personal and corporate transformation are truly beyond our imagining!" - Marjorie Thompson in Soul Feast

Join us this Lent for a very special online journey using Marjorie Thompson's *Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life*. Gathering weekly on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. beginning February 18, we invite you to explore classic disciplines such as prayer, fasting, spiritual reading, and self-examination, while nurturing your understanding of our rich Christian spirituality.

Participants are invited to purchase their own copy of *Soul Feast*, which includes a study guide. This resource from Marjorie Thompson continues to be a favorite for individual reflection and group study.

Registration information available by calling the Church Office.

BIBLE STUDY

A group has formed to study the book of Romans. The class will be recorded and uploaded to the website after each Wednesday class. Make time to view the video each week or email the office or the pastor if you would like Zoom information to participate in the class



I'm still striving to bring plenty of variety to our Sunday morning worship services as we "magnify the Lord . . . and . . . exalt His name together" as Psalm 34:3 says.

January saw Scott Valentine and Matt Cessna as singers, and Zak Reynolds shared his gifts with us several times on the organ, singing and playing a really fun piano duet with me of "This Little Light of Mine" on Jan. 17. Thankfully, January has been more free of technological glitches than December was. December 27 was a harrowing experience technologically and Zak and Brandon Sidoli were willing to come in on their own time to record Zak's organ prelude from that morning (picture attached). These young men continue to be a great blessing! June is just around the corner and they are both graduating from high school, so please agree in prayer with Pastor Barb and I about who will serve in their places. Don't be surprised if you get a call from Pastor or I or someone else on Worship & Music Committee asking if you would volunteer in the sound/tech room. Training needs to happen with Brandon to prepare you for what should not be such a difficult job, but commitment to taking your regular turn there would be paramount. I cannot say a large enough THANK YOU to Brandon for manning this technology almost every Sunday since end of April!!!

And planning is afoot for February and how to creatively celebrate Ash Wednesday with hopes of being in-person shortly after that.



WORSHIP CONTINUES ON-LINE FOR THE PRESENT

To protect our community and our front-line medical workers, Trinity Lutheran Greencastle, has made the difficult decision to hold only on-line worship through Feb 14. Covid infections are decreasing and we're hopeful to return to in-sanctuary worship the Sunday after Ash Wednesday, Feb 21. This decision is not made lightly. Anchored in love of our neighbor we feel a responsibility to protect the vulnerable of our community.

On-line Worship will be offered on Sundays at 10AM via *Facebook Live*. The worship services will be downloaded after the services to *YouTube* (click on TLC Greencastle PA) and can also be accessed on the website: www.tlcgreencastle.org



Brandon and Zak prepare to record

THURSDAY DEVOTIONS

Each Thursday afternoon Pastor Barb records a midweek devotion on Facebook Live. The devotion can also be viewed from the homepage of the Website. Facebook posts are automatically downloaded to the website.

THURSDAY PRAYER TEAM

Thursday evening at 6PM a group of dedicated disciples gathers via Zoom to pray for Trinity. Please call the office or pastor for the Zoom information if you would like to participate with the team. If that isn't possible, please set the alarm on your phone for Thursday, 6PM and pray from where you are. We can pray together in Spirit even when apart.

TRINITY FEEDS THE HUNGRY



The pandemic is creating need among the most vulnerable in our neighborhood. We are blessed to be blessings to our neighbors. Please remember the hungry when you grocery shop. Place your donations in the food pantry box by the front door of the church. It is checked daily. To help us focus our efforts, each week we'll assign a food item.

- Feb. 7 - Cookies
- Feb. 14 - Canned vegetables and fruit
- Feb. 21 - Cereal
- Feb. 28 - Pasta and sauce



God has blessed Trinity with an abundance. Many of our family give time, talent and supplies behind the scenes so our work as the people of God can happen.

Each month we will take some time to say thank you. You are appreciated! If you know of someone who should be on this list, call the office.

- Brandon Sidoli: Continues to work with sound for Worship and Facebook Live and downloads the video to YouTube.
- Charlie Ford and Darrell Swart worked together to take down and store the Christmas decorations.
- Sue Wunderlich: Continues to keep the altar flower donations organized and to take the food to the food pantry each week.
- Trinity Family: For continuing to tithe to support God's work
- Don Berger and Charlie Wunderlich who stepped in to cover the treasurer's work while Carol was laid up from her surgery.
- Anonymous donation: Cover the cost of organ repair.
- Tom Sidoli: Trained several Sundays to add the Worship video to the website.

HAVE YOU PICKED UP YOUR ENVELOPES?

There are still offering envelopes on the table in the Lobby to pick up. Please come by the office or call and we'll deliver them to your porch.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for Trinity's IT and Sound Ministry. Brandon will be graduating in June and leaving for college. If we are to continue our on-line presence, we need a few people who will be willing to train and manage Facebook Live. Please prayerfully consider whether God is inviting you to help with this ministry. Call the office (717-597-9348) to arrange for training.

Trinity Highlights
is a publication of
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WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?

The Renewal Team continues to invite our family to notice God active in our lives. The more we notice God in our lives; the more we'll see God as the anchor on which we stand both personally and as a family of faith. **Send us your God moments and we will share them next week in the Parish News.** *Here are some ways our congregation saw God this week:*

- Praise God for each new day.
- He gives me hope that someday we will be back in church again.
- Dangle the love of Jesus before others.
- How wonderful to know God remembers us even when we feel forgotten by the rest of the world.

YOUTH NEWS

The Youth Planning Team continues to explore options for youth group activities during this difficult time.

The Zoom devotion meetings continue on Tuesday evening. Please contact Rachelle for the Zoom information, if you would like to join us.

FEBRUARY SPECIAL APPEAL

The Ronald McDonald House® is built on the simple idea that nothing else should matter when a family is focused on the health of their child – not where they can afford to stay, where they will get their next meal or where they will lay their head at night to rest. If you desire to make a donation, please mark your envelope for "Special Appeal".





R3 RENEWAL TEAM NEWS

Trinity is renewing with God's help through the R3 Intentional Program of Renewal.

Beginning in Feb 2021, members of the Renewal Team will meet with various teams and committees challenging them to find a way for us to connect with one another and our neighbors. The team will provide tools for planning.

Call the office or comment on Facebook each week sharing where you've seen God.

Principles

Using the information from conversations with the congregation about our assets, wows and needs, the renewal team discerned these principles for Trinity moving forward. We will use these principles as lens through which to evaluate ministry opportunities moving forward.

- ♦ Passionate about God
- ♦ Feeding the hungry physically, emotionally and spiritually
- ♦ Open, welcoming and friendly
- ♦ Courage to creatively use our gifts in the community

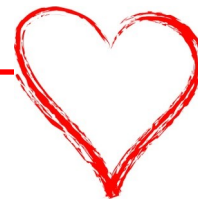
Priorities

The renewal team also identified these current priorities for ministry for Trinity:

Internal: Renew and deepen our connection with each other in the family.

External: Renew and deepen our connection with our neighbors in the community and continue working with the Food Pantry.

Love Your Neighbor



Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

–Matthew 22:37-40

What a shame that February – the one month of the year with keen focus on love – is also the shortest. We sure could use a lot more love in our world, especially for our neighbor. The last 12 months have been particularly hard, as race riots, a divisive election and civil unrest have all unfolded against the traumatic backdrop of the Covid 19 pandemic. Currently in very short supply, more love for neighbor would go a long way in helping us to solve our problems.

Love for neighbor is integral to not only good discipleship, but also good stewardship. The greater the "love for neighbor" factor in our lives, the better stewards we will be of every blessing God provides – creation, time, relationships, money, possessions, health, to name just a few. By cultivating love for neighbor we will also enjoy a happier life and promote a healthier and more civil society.

The opposite is also true. Cultivating enmity for neighbor leaves us sour, selfish and cynical, while also making our nation angry and selfish.

This year make February "Love Your Neighbor" month in your personal devotions and your congregational life. Give the concept breathing room in your life. Keep it in your thoughts, sow it in our heart, talk about it to your family and friends.

Pray for God to teach you what it means to love our neighbor. Pray for God to give you the strength and will to live it. And watch as love heals and invigorates your life ... and our world.

–Rob Blezard

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