



TRINITY HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH 2021

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

Dear Family,

We're now a few weeks into Lent. How's it going? It took me a couple days to get settled. I needed to take some intentional time to sit quietly and pray. What spiritual practice was God calling me to this Lent to strip away the non-essentials and bring me back to a deeper more enriching relationship?

That, essentially, is the purpose of Lent. Lent isn't a self-improvement program, so we'll be perfect by Easter. Instead, we open our heart spaces through spiritual practice so GOD can get to us, transforming our hearts and our lives in the process. More and more our attitudes, words and behavior align with God's vision for love, healing and wholeness in the world.

We begin the Ash Wednesday Service with words from Psalm 51.

*¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.*

The entire process of transformation begins and ends with God. Lent gives us an opportunity to cooperate with God's grace – God's unconditional love and forgiveness.

Lent is a time of repentance – changing direction toward God. We name and pray to let go of those things in our lives that distract us from what really matters. Jesus tells us where our treasure is there our heart is also. The spiritual practices of Lent show us clearly what we value, where our heart is. Once we see and name the reality of our living, God guides us through the holy work of letting go of what doesn't matter so we grow to be our best selves, our true selves with God at the center of who we are and what we do. We live in the flow of God's love.

That is the result of the transformation we're talking about here, isn't it? As followers of Jesus, we slowly align ourselves with God's will and purpose, joining God in the work of healing our broken world into wholeness. We love because we can do no other. It all begins with opening our heart spaces to love.

What is God asking of you this Lent? There are three traditional spiritual practices of Lent that are lifted up each Ash Wednesday.

Fasting: When we fast from food or something else we hunger for every day, we have an opportunity to reflect on our hunger for God and reorient our impulses and daily living to what really matters.

Works of love and sacrificial giving: As a spiritual practice, generous giving of time, talent and money for those in need can shed light on an impoverished spirit. It is hard to feel grateful and intimate with God if our spirits are darkened by resentment or lack of generosity.

Prayer: Intentional daily time with God is essential to growing and building a loving, deep and enriching relationship. There are many ways to pray. It's important, though, that the praying be heartfelt and not simply reading a devotion or reciting words. A time of silence and listening is also helpful. Use your Bible as a springboard for prayer. There are plenty of books to help. Please call, if I can be of help. Prayer is a vital form of spiritual practice not to be missed! It's how we communicate with God.

God bless you on your journey,

Pastor Barb





MARCH 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 R3 Meeting 7PM <i>ET Planning Meeting 7PM</i>	2 Worship & Music 7PM	3 Bible Study 2PM <i>Mid-Week Lenten Service</i>	4 Pastor Barb mid-week devotion <i>Prayer 6PM</i> Synod Spiritual Practice Class 7PM	5	6
7 Adult Forum 9AM <i>Confirmation 9AM</i> Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live 10 AM <i>Food Bag Distribution</i>	8	9 Finance 7PM	10 Bible Study 2PM <i>Mid-Week Lenten Service</i> Council 7PM	11 Pastor Barb mid-week devotion <i>Prayer 6PM</i> Synod Spiritual Practice Class 7PM	12	13
14 <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i> Adult Forum 9AM <i>Confirmation in Sanctuary 9AM</i> Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live 10AM <i>Food Bag Collection</i>	15	16	17 Bible Study 2PM <i>Mid-Week Lenten Service</i>	18 Pastor Barb mid-week devotion <i>Prayer 6PM</i> Synod Spiritual Practice Class 7PM	19	20 R3 Workshop
21 Adult Forum 9AM <i>Confirmation in Sanctuary 9AM</i> Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live 10AM	22 R3 Meeting 7PM	23	24 Bible Study 2PM <i>Mid-Week Lenten Service 7PM TLC</i>	25 Pastor Barb mid-week devotion <i>Prayer 6PM</i> Synod Spiritual Practice Class 7PM	26	27
28 <i>Palm Sunday</i> Adult Forum 9AM <i>No Confirmation</i> Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live 10AM	29	30	31 Bible Study 2PM <i>Mid-Week Lenten Service</i>	NOTE: All meetings and activities via Zoom or online until further notice.		

March Worship Assistants

	MARCH 7	MARCH 14	MARCH 21	MARCH 28
Assisting Minister	Scott Valentine	Dave Wolfe	Charlie Ford	Scott Valentine
Ushers	Dave Wolfe	Larson Thomas	Alan Shank	Donna Wolfe
Singer	Matt Cessna	Zak Reynolds	Scott Valentine	Matt Cessna



NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD COLLECTION

Food insecurity is on the rise. The Food Pantry is reporting a 25% increase in families needing help. The R3 team is planning to collect food in the neighborhoods around the church. Placing bags on the doors in our neighborhood, asking them to fill the bags with food and then collecting the food is a safe activity that can make a big difference for our hungry neighbors. We will deliver the food to the Greencastle-Antrim Food Pantry but will not stay to put the food on the shelves. The room is simply too small for safe social distancing. Each team will be a family unit assigned to a specific area to keep ourselves safely distanced.

Our mission is "Sharing Christ in Word and Deed." How will you help share Christ with our brothers and sisters in need? **Please call the office and sign up to staple bags, distribute bags or pick-up food.**

Feb 28: Give out bags for stapling. The bags need to be returned to the church by Mar 7

March 7: After worship, we will gather at the church and hang bags on doors in our neighborhood.

March 14: We will be sent out after worship to collect food and take to the Greencastle-Antrim Food Pantry at the Presbyterian Church.

MARCH FOOD COLLECTION ITEMS

Each month we assign items needed by the Greencastle-Antrim Food Pantry. Please bring them along to worship or drop them off at the church. Items needed in March are:

March 7 - Potato Mixes
 March 14 - Crackers
 March 21 - Dish Detergent
 March 28 - Canned Soup - not condensed

BISHOP DUNLOP'S ASH WEDNESDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION (Mark 6:1-6, 16-21)



As bishop, I have been to almost all our congregations on a Sunday morning. One of the great joys of this ministry is worshiping in our unique and varied settings. There are many different characteristics to our congregations and yet, a few things are common for almost all. An element I recognize with special gratitude is a collection for the local food pantry; abundance flowing into containers of all shapes and sizes. God is truly present in the containers of food staples and essentials to be shared with those in need, people who are hungry. We say that the Lower Susquehanna Synod is where the hungry are fed as we have been fed by Christ. Hunger is a problem, even here in the fertile farmland of the Susquehanna Valley. The risk of hunger has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis. Somehow, week after week, our people without any fanfare continue to bring food to share. There are no trumpets sounding as bags of food are placed quietly in receptacles and people are able to eat. It is how we as the people of God quietly feed people who are hungry. The alms of food quietly given to feed as we have been fed by Christ.

Let us pray, Good and gracious God, we give thanks for your bounty in your creation. You provide abundant food for your children. Send your Spirit on us that we may be generous in our sharing to feed those who do not have enough. Guide us that we may work to eliminate hunger in our communities and the world. May the love of your Son, Jesus, open our hearts in love. Amen



WEDNESDAY LENTEN SPIRIT

To continue to protect the vulnerable among us, we will gather on-line for our Wednesday Lenten Services. The theme is Community.

How are we called to be community together in this age of Covid. We will be sharing Midweek Lenten Worship with Rev Denise Horn and Rev Martin Horn. Salem Lutheran, Evangelical Lutheran and Trinity Lutheran will each host two services. The schedule follows:

March 3: *In community with all the Saints.* Pastor Barb preaching. TLC hosting (join us on Facebook Live at 7PM. The service will be downloaded to YouTube and the website after the service)

March 10: *In Community with our neighbor.* Pastor Martin preaching. Salem hosting. (The service will be downloaded to our website by 7PM Wed, March 10.)

March 17: *In community with those on the margins.* Pastor Barb preaching. ELC hosting. (The service will be downloaded to our website by 7PM Wed, March 17.)

March 24: *In community with Christ.* Pastor Martin preaching. TLC hosting. (join us on Facebook Live at 7PM. The service will be downloaded to YouTube and the website after the service)

March 31: *The community of the forgiven.* Pastor Denise preaching. Salem hosting. (The service will be downloaded to our website by 7PM, Wed, March 31.)

MIDWEEK DEVOTION



Join Pastor Barb each Thursday afternoon for a midweek devotion. The devotion is recorded on Facebook Live. The devotion can also be viewed from the homepage of the Website. Facebook posts are automatically downloaded to the website.



SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR FASTING

- +Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- +Fast from resentment and be filled with gratitude.
- +Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- +Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- +Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- +Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- +Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- +Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- +Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- +Fast from grudges and be reconciled.



BIBLE STUDY

A group has formed to study the book of Romans meeting each Wednesday at 2PM on Zoom. The class is recorded. We are working on the logistics for uploading the recording to the website. For now, if you would like the recording please email the pastor (revbarb.barry@gmail.com). Email the office (tlcsecoffice@gmail.com) or the pastor if you would like zoom information to participate in the class.



MUSIC NOTES FROM SAUNDRA



Welcome back to the sanctuary for the Sunday morning worship service!!! Pictured is Eeyore, mine and Scott Valentine's favorite character in A.A. Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh stories. Next to Pastor and I, Eeyore has been the most faithful attendee of Trinity the past year. LOL! So, we are glad to see each of you and our heartfelt greetings and hugs go out to those preferring to remain in the virtual audience! Ongoing thanks to Brandon Sidoli for handling the online technology! Thanks to a generous donor and 18+ man hours of labor by Lewis & Hitchcock (formerly Lawless & Assoc.), the organ has been tuned and several items have been repaired, so that you should be hearing more of it. I was privileged to receive Imposition of Ashes for the first time in my life during the Feb. 17 service. It was very moving for me, and I hope that service launched you, too, on a Lenten pilgrimage to draw closer to Jesus. "Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:14-16 NASB) Let us humble ourselves in repentance now and see what new life God will reveal within and Among us on Resurrection Day and beyond! . .



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.

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.

MARCH SPECIAL APPEAL

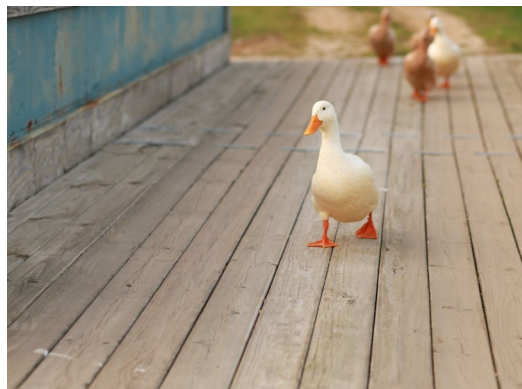
The special appeal for March is Waynesboro Area Community and Human Services. This agency serves people who live in the Waynesboro Area and Greencastle-Antrim School Districts. They have funds to help people with utility, housing and other kinds of bills. They also have large, free food and clothing banks. If you desire to make a monetary donation, please mark your envelope for "Special Appeal".



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 or fill out the form in your bulletin and we will share them next week in the Parish News. *Here are some ways our congregation saw God this week:*

- When my son's surgery went well.
- Seeing God at work in a family member's life as she has started an intense Bible study on forgiveness.
- In the beautiful snow.
- Guiding my family safely to and from work during snow storms and having a neighbor plow our driveway without asking and refusing any pay.



*We always thank
God for all of you
and continually
mention you in
our prayers.*

1 Thessalonians 1:2, NIV

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.

- Don Berger for stepping in for Pam Arnold while she is away.
- Tru Precision Lawn Care for donating time and manpower to keep the parking lot free of snow and ice during our many winter storms this month.
- Members of our family of faith who tithe in these difficult times stopping by the office, mailing in their donations or using Simply Giving or the on-line give button on the website.
- Brandon Sildoli for his weekly commitment to providing on-line worship through Facebook Live
- Darrell Swart: our first volunteer to be trained for Facebook Live
- Bud and Donna Wolfe who faithfully change the banners and altar paraments.
- Scott Valentine who changes the hymn board and creates the screen for each Sunday's worship
- Members of Council who faithfully meet monthly on Zoom to help direct the congregation's ministry: Darrell Swart: President and Property Chair, Charlie Ford: Vice President, Donna Wolfe: Secretary, Matt Cessna: Finance Liaison, Don Swart: Christian Ed Liaison and chair, Brandon Sidoli, and Tom Sidoli.



A meeting of the ET Planning Team will meet on Monday, March 1 at 7PM. They continue 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.

**Trinity Highlights
is a publication of
Trinity Lutheran Church
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R3 INTENTIONAL PROGRAM OF RENEWAL

Beth Ford, chair of the Renewal Team, has been meeting with standing committees challenging each group to create some kind of project that focuses on our congregation's priorities. Beth provided planning tools and guidance. This focus is for everyone so if you have any ideas or suggestions, please share with the team.

Call the office, fill in the form in the bulletin or comment on Facebook each week sharing where you've seen God.

Principles

Using the information from conversations with the congregation about our assets, wants 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

Dear Members of Trinity,

Thank you so much for your continued support of our annual yearly Christmas Project. Your generous financial donation allowed us to not only purchase gifts for Greencastle children, but also to increase the amount we were able to spend on each child. Our members were so happy to purchase both toys and clothing that were requested by the parents who needed our help.



*With much appreciation,
Greencastle Exchange Club*



LENT: TIME TO GO THE SECOND MILE

"If any of your kin fall into difficulty and become dependent on you, you shall support them." - Leviticus 25:35a

Thanks to vaccines, we can expect an end to the pandemic this year, but the economic recovery will linger much longer. Our government reports that half the families in our nation lost income in 2020, with many of them forced into desperate poverty.

Billions of dollars in federal assistance and a moratorium on evictions have helped ease the pain, but many are suffering. The pandemic's economic victims may include you, your family members, and people in your community or congregation.

Lent has begun, but it's not too late to adopt a discipline that may simultaneously help bring you closer to God, increase your faith and help your neighbor. Pray for guidance on how best to respond to the need. Here are some ideas:

- Pray. Set aside time each day to talk and listen to God.
- If you can afford to make a financial contribution, give sacrificially to a ministry that's helping people get by. A food pantry, soup kitchen, homeless shelter, clothing closet. Can you make a weekly donation through Lent, and beyond?
- If you cannot afford to make a financial contribution, can you volunteer? Are there special talents – writing, online communications, organizing, fund-raising, etc. – that you might be able to donate?
- In your congregation, start or expand a helping ministry. Alternatively, lead your church to become a ministry that's already doing a good job.
- Learn about the needs in your congregation and community, and then educate others.
- Advocate on issues of poverty and economic justice.

The pandemic's bruising effects will take years to heal. As God's people, we can help by praying, serving and supporting those in need.

-Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2021, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org. He blogs at www.thestewardshipguy.com.