

February 2018

Dear Friends of Trinity,

I am excited to announce our Midweek Lenten Series for this year! I call it “Major Biblical Themes”. It’s a video-based series that will explore themes that weave their way through the Biblical narrative. I’m sure you’ll find it to be fascinating as it will help the Bible come alive for you in ways you’d never expect.

Everything in the Bible points to Jesus and what he would do for the salvation of the world. Once that is embraced, you can look back in the Old Testament to see how that is true. It’s very exciting!

I truly hope you’ll attend. Elsewhere in this newsletter is an explanation of the themes we’ll be examining, just to whet your appetite a little bit.

The videos are produced by the very creative people at *The Bible Project*. You can go to YouTube and watch any of their videos. I think they are very well done and are very good at keeping your attention.

After we view each video, I’ll have a series of questions to help us flesh out the theme. I hope to have great discussions with you as we seek to know, understand, and take to heart the truths of Scripture. Invite people to come—family, friends, acquaintances, co-workers—and get ready to see the Bible in ways you haven’t before!

In Christ,
Pastor Hoag



FEBUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

President's Report

January seems like a blur, but one highlight that is absolutely worth mentioning is the amazing generosity of our members between December and January. Our stained glass window fund has now exceeded \$38,000 in donations - up from about \$22,000 at the start of December. And the funds are still coming in! We have contacted several companies for bids on this project and we look forward to evaluating the various proposals as they come back in. At this point, we don't have any back just yet but we hope to see proposals over the next month or two and then select a company to complete this task for us. Some amount of disruption will be inevitable but the end result - restoration of our beautiful stained glass windows for decades to come - will be worth it. I want to thank everyone once again for your generous support of this project, as well as those who continue to make donations to this cause.

As we have done each year for the last several years, our Social Ministry Committee sets out in search of ways our church can extend its reach beyond our four walls. You may recall a presentation last year from Regenerations, which included an overview from their Executive Director and even a first-hand account of one of the foster children who benefited directly from that program. Our support for Regenerations was very strong, resulting in a check from our congregation to Lutheran Child & Family Services for \$3,500. Mark your calendars this year to hear about another great Lutheran cause. We are tentatively planning to have representatives from Lutheran Church Charities' Comfort Dog Program come to Trinity on Sunday, March 4th to talk to our members about all that they do. If you happened to attend services on January 21st, you likely got to meet Darlin. Darlin is in the Comfort Dog program and she accompanied our guest Pastor that day to Trinity (very much by coincidence...they did not know we were thinking about supporting this program this year). Judging by the reception Darlin received, and with this being a growing area part of Lutheran Church Charities, I am excited to host them at Trinity so that they can tell us more about what they do. We will accept donations to this cause that day and for a few weeks following the presentation and we prayerfully ask you to consider supporting this great program in 2018. They provide much needed comfort to countless people in need.

Our Outreach Committee is hard at work planning a cookout for this summer. Rumor has it this may become a BBQ contest with grills adorning our parking lot. If you like to grill and would be interested in participating, look for details in future newsletters about the event. We hope whether you like to grill or whether you just enjoy eating grilled food

that you'll join us this summer for a time of fellowship as we continue celebrating our 500th year since the Reformation. We hope to pack the lot that day for a day of food and fellowship, so please plan to join us. Further details will be available soon, but we have a few months before the weather will allow us to host this event.



Contribution statements for income tax purposes are available for members using the offering envelopes. If you have not received a statement in previous years and would like to request one, please contact the church secretary or Janice Prospero. If you received a statement in the past you are on the list to automatically receive one each year.



February Sign-Up sheets for Readers, Greeters and MorningStar Mission are on the hallway table! Please help by taking a turn.



LENT BEGINS February 14, 2018

Ash Wednesday Service will be on February 14th at 7:30 p.m.

Lenten services will be held each following Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m.

LENTEN SERIES 2018—MAJOR BIBLICAL THEMES

This year we will be showing a series of videos having to do with Biblical themes and how they find their places in the Biblical narrative, most importantly seeing how they are fulfilled in Jesus Christ. These animated short videos are informative and interesting. Each week we will be examining one of the themes and having a short discussion to drive the point home. This will help us to see the bigger picture of the Bible and really take to

heart all that our God has done for us. The videos are produced by the folks at **The Bible Project**, whose mission is to show how the Bible is a unified story that leads to Jesus. Below is a short explanation of the themes we'll be exploring.

February 21—Heaven and Earth

Heaven and earth were meant to overlap, and Jesus is on a mission to bring them together once and for all.

February 28—Holiness

The holy God is unique and set-apart as the Creator of all reality. And this God wants to invite all people into his purifying holiness so they can experience true life.

March 7—The Covenants

God entered into a series of formal relationships with various human partners in order to ultimately rescue the world through Jesus.

March 14—Messiah

Jesus fulfilled the ancient biblical promise of a wounded victor who would rescue humanity. He was the one who overcame evil itself by allowing it to destroy him.

March 21—The Day of the Lord

God is on a mission to confront human evil, and the more mysterious spiritual evil that underlies it.

Each midweek service will take place on Wednesday at 7:30pm. Come and participate. Invite family, friends, and acquaintances to join in on this series.



Soup and sandwich suppers are held at 6:30 p.m., just prior to each Lenten service.

Below is a schedule of the organizations who will be preparing the meals and the dates of the meals.

- 2/21 Sunday school
- 2/28 Chancel Guild
- 3/7 Youth group
- 3/14 Church Council
- 3/21 Social ministry

Social Ministry



Social Ministry will be selling TJ's Pizza and Desserts. Ordering dates will be March 7th through March 25th. Samples will be available at the Lenten Suppers. Delivery date is Thursday, April 19th between 4:30 – 6:00 P.M. If you cannot pick up your order at that time, you can pick it up on the following Sunday after one of the services. All proceeds will go to the Comfort Dog Program of the Lutheran Church Charities.

March 4th – We will be having the Lutheran Church Charities Comfort Dogs coming for a visit and presentation. This will be one of the charities we will be sponsoring this year.



Trinity Pre-School – Registration for Fall Pre-School is now open. Please tell your friends and neighbors. There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$60.00 per student. School year beginning September 2018 the tuition per month will be \$110 for two day students and \$135 for three day students. Children must be 3 by September 1, 2018. For further information, please call Trinity Lutheran Church at 815.485.6973.

Pre-School Board Meeting – Sunday, February 18th at 9:15 a.m.



MorningStar Mission: The next serving dates for February are the 5th and 19th. If you are interested in helping, please be sure to sign up on the sheet on the hallway table, so we know we have enough helpers to serve.

MorningStar would like to thank everyone at Trinity for their generosity at Christmas. They were able to provide over 300 families with food for the holidays and all of their families received gifts through the *Stars of Hope*.



Chancel Guild: The next meeting will be **Monday, February 5, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.** All ladies of Trinity are invited to visit. Hostesses are Denise Buchanan and Wendy Kaun.



Candy Bars for sale! Rita Larson is selling Fannie May candy bars for \$1.00 each. The candy bars are available after services or in the church office. Please deposit your payment in the envelope inside the candy bar box.



THESE MAKE GREAT VALENTINE GIFTS!



Women's League

The next meeting will be February 27, 2018 at Williamson's Restaurant New Lenox for the annual birthday luncheon.



Thanks to the choir for the beautiful singing and music in our regular church services, as well as the Christmas services. The choir meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. and are always looking for additional voices.

During Lent, the choir rehearsals will be done a little differently. Since we will be having church services on Wednesday night at 7:30 pm, choir will not meet at 7:00 pm. Rehearsal times will be announced as they will change from week to week.



Trinity will be sponsoring a blood drive on February 26, 2018 from 3 – 6 PM. Blood is always needed. Your donation saved lives! Thanks to Deb Aiken for coordinating this with Heartland Blood Centers.



Scrip Fundraiser - This is a gift card fundraiser - they are the same gift cards you can purchase from retailers, including over 300 brand-name grocery, department stores, restaurants, gas stations, hotels, home improvement, etc. **We order the gift cards at a discount, and you pay face value for the gift cards. (For example, you pay \$25 for a \$25 Speedway gift card - the youth group obtains the card at a discount and keeps the difference.)** You can purchase gift cards by filling out an order form (located by the youth bulletin board) or by placing your order online at shopwithscrip.com. If interested in placing orders online, you will need an enrollment code. Ask Angie Minett for the code or stop by the church office. Direct any questions you may have to Angie Minett at minett411@yahoo.com or [\(815\)467-2537](tel:8154672537).

The next deadline for turning in orders along with payment is Monday, February 5th at noon. The cards will be ready for pick-up at church the following weekend (February 10th and 11th).

Thank you to everyone who has been supporting our efforts!
Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

SCRIPTURE READERS



We are asking you to become involved in our worship services, without committing too much time! Just read The First and Second Lessons!! To do so, place your name on the Sunday you would like on the sheets in the hallway. **The actual readings are available ahead of time and may be acquired by contacting Pastor or the Church Office at 815.485.6973.**



GREETERS

Have you ever gone somewhere where you didn't know anyone? Imagine you are looking for a new church home and one of the churches on your list is Trinity. You show up on Sunday morning and no one speaks to you except the Pastor. Will you be coming back? Take a turn at greeting at one of our services and the result might be very surprising. Signup sheet for January is in the hallway.



Confirmation Class - During Lent, there won't be Confirmation Class at 6:00 PM. Instead, the students are expected to attend Lenten Services on Wednesday night at 7:30 PM and to fillout a sermon sheet. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Hoag or call the church office at 815.485.6973.



Wednesday Morning Bible Class is held at 8:30 a.m. Please join this very interesting group.

Thursday Evening Bible Class is held at 7:00 p.m. Please join us!



Coffee Hour A new yellow sign-up sheet is on the hallway table for volunteers for the 4th Sunday of each month in 2018. ***Please take a turn.*** Without your help, coffee will not be served on the 4th Sunday. *If you have any questions, please call the church office at 815.485.6973.*



Thrivent will be hosting an educational workshop on March 20th at 2 pm here at Trinity. This series is titled, "5 Keys to Retiring Fearlessly".

Watch for more information and a sign-up sheet as the date approaches.



St. Matthew's Outreach. We are still collecting food, clothing and small household items for St. Matthew's Church. Please place food items in the bin at the top of the stairs coming in from the parking lot. Other items should be carefully placed in the storage room at the East end of the church basement. If you are interested in helping take these items to St. Matthew's please contact the church office at 815.485.6973.



Altar Flowers. Flowers are placed on our altar every weekend to enhance and beautify our altar area in memory of a loved one, to commemorate a birthday, wedding anniversary, or in celebration of God's blessings. **A 2018 flower chart showing open weekends has been posted in the cabinet across from the church office.** The flower order forms are attached to the cabinet. If you would like to sponsor flowers on a particular weekend, complete the form and place it along with a **check made out to Trinity Lutheran Chancel Guild** in the Chancel Guild mailbox in the church office. Please note the cost of the flowers has increased to \$30.00. If you want a date already chosen, it may be possible to share the date and the cost with permission from the person who has already selected the date. If you have any questions, please call Kay Purnell at (815) 485-9017 or email her at purnellk51@hotmail.com. Flowers may be picked up **after** the 10:30 service. Thank you to all who participate!

Church office hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm