

March 2017

Dear Friends of Trinity,

The Season of Lent has finally arrived, and with it extra worship services to help us sharpen our focus on the mercy of God toward sinners. This year we will be exploring Psalm 51, the great penitential Psalm of David. Each Wednesday evening, we will look at a couple of verses from the Psalm, hear what Martin Luther had to say about the verses, and then see that we have nothing of ourselves that reconciles us to God or earns His grace. We only have shelter in the mercy of God, which is the primary theme of the Psalm. That is what makes Psalm 51 so sweet. It's relief for the burdened soul.

The Word of God reveals to us God's righteous anger at our sins from which we have no escape. This wrath is eternal and everlasting. The Word of God also reveals that God is merciful and faithful. His mercy and faithfulness are also eternal and everlasting, and finally given to us freely through a person, the God-man Jesus Christ. He endured the eternal wrath of God on the cross on our behalf, so that we could enjoy the everlasting mercy of God. Psalm 51 beautifully lays this out!

Our Lenten services begin on Ash Wednesday, March 1, at 7:30pm. Come, be fed and encouraged, and know the immensity of God's grace through Jesus for you!

In Christ,  
Pastor Hoag

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# MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER



Lent starts March 1<sup>st</sup> with our Ash Wednesday Service. **Lenten services will be held each Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m.**

## **Lenten Series 2017**

In commemoration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation, we will have a special sermon series during the Lenten Midweek Services.

***Have Mercy on Me, O God: Martin Luther on Psalm 51*** is the title of the series.

Psalm 51 is the great lament Psalm of King David when he was confronted by the prophet Nathan about his adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of Bathsheba's husband, Uriah the Hittite. Luther wrote at length about the Psalm three times during his life and gleans so much meaning and significance about the nature of repentance, the knowledge of man, and the knowledge of God. Each week we will explore portions of Psalm 51 and hear Luther's great insights for our own Lenten journey of penitence and being embraced by the great mercy of God through Jesus Christ.

**Ash Wednesday, March 1: When Mercy Is All That We Can Ask For (Psalm 51:1-2)**

**Midweek 2, March 8: God's Judgment is Justified (Psalm 51:3-5)**

**Midweek 3, March 15: God Seeks Truth (Psalm 51:6-8)**

**Midweek 4, March 22: A New Creation by the Mercy of God (Psalm 51:9-13)**

**Midweek 5, March 29: God Opens Lips to Praise His Mercy (Psalm 51:14-15)**

**Midweek 6: April 5: Sacrifices by the Mercy of God (Psalm 51:16-19)**



***Soup and sandwich suppers are held at 6:30 p.m., just prior to each Lenten service.*** Thank you to the organizations who prepared, or will be preparing the meal the following weeks. The proceeds from the free-will offering baskets on the table will be given to the Youth Group. The Youth will also be assisting each organization with the serving and cleaning up each week.

March 8 – Youth Group  
March 15 – Chancel Guild  
March 22 – Sunday School  
March 29 – Church Council  
April 5 – Women's League



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**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 have received a statement in the past you are on the list to automatically receive one each year.**



**Financial Report:** The congregation adopted a 2017 General Fund Budget of \$209,541.58 at its Annual Meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup>. The Budget is 1% higher than the 2016 budget, the Council deemed the adjustment warranted to cover expected operating costs. A salary increases of 3% was approved for Pastor. Primary support of the General Fund by the congregation is very important to meeting Trinity's ongoing needs.

Our congregation was truly blessed with financial support during 2016. General Fund receipts, that were higher than in 2015, and special donations allowed the payment of all commitments. We want to thank everyone for their support of Trinity Lutheran Church and its missions. If you could not make the Annual Meeting and have financial questions, please contact Janice Prospero, Financial Secretary, or Tim King, Treasurer.”



**UPDATE FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT, JEFF McDONALD.** Lent is quickly approaching and plans are underway to continue our tradition of an Easter breakfast at the conclusion of Lent between services on Easter Sunday. If you haven't joined us in the past for this, please consider attending this year (a sign-up sheet will be posted later this month). It is a wonderful time of food and fellowship and the freewill offering we take during breakfast that morning will be donated to Regenerations (<https://www.lcfs.org/regenerations/>), which is an LCFS-sponsored program aimed at improving the lives of foster children. We have a representative from Regenerations scheduled to come to Trinity on March 26<sup>th</sup> to speak to the congregation about what this program involves, so please do your best to join us that Sunday to learn more about and help us to support this program. Ample evidence exists to support the idea that congregations with an outward focus tend to thrive, and our support of Regenerations is one of the ways we do just that.

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Another idea we are considering for Easter Sunday is to offer free photographs of our members in our sanctuary between services. Since Easter tends to be a time when families come together to worship, we thought it would be nice to capture our members (by themselves or with family) in pictures. The pictures will be offered free of charge to our members and will be a nice way to get updated photos of our members. We hope you'll take us up on this offer and sign up for a picture. All photos will be shared to our church's Facebook page unless request is made to not share your picture there.

We will also look to have a landscape clean-up day before Easter Sunday so that our exterior will look as good as our interior, so please be on the lookout for details of that event. We are tentatively looking at Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 8 AM for this, so please mark your calendars and plan to join us with a rake, shovel or just your hands that day to help us spruce up our grounds.

Last for now, you will likely notice that construction is underway at Trinity to move Pastor Hoag to his new office across the hall (in what used to be our Youth Room - they are now in the recently updated Youth Room downstairs). We will then be moving Judi Donovan into Pastor's current office and will convert her current church secretary's office to an all-purpose church office where our various organizations will have more room for their things. We hope to update our library flooring as part of this project as well. Once that project is complete, we will focus in earnest on getting our stained glass windows reinforced. Our thanks to those who have already contributed to these projects. We have a way to go, but we are very grateful for the progress we've made so far thanks to the generous support of our members.



**Fannie May Candy Bar Sale!** Rita Larson is continuing to sell candy bars for \$1.00 each. They are available after church services, or in the church office. Please deposit your money in the envelope inside the candy bar box. This is for the benefit of the Chancel Guild. The proceeds from the February sales will be given to the Chancel Guild. **These are great for Easter baskets!**

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**Bible Classes – everyone is invited to attend.**

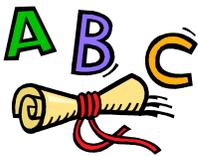
**Sunday Morning – meets at 9:15 a.m. in the library; and**

**Wednesday Morning – meets from 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. in the library.**

**NEW BIBLE STUDY! – THE WORKING WORD**

The Holy Scriptures are a treasure trove of heavenly and eternal wisdom and insight as the history of salvation and redemption is played out on the surface of our planet. Several themes weave their way through the Biblical narrative and are all brought together and fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. In this study, we will explore and interpret the themes that weave through the Scriptures, only to discover that the Scriptures explore and interpret us! In doing so, we will see that we truly are saved by the revealed righteousness of God through Jesus.

Join us on Thursday evenings, 7-8:30 PM, beginning March 9 and going through the Season of Lent. See Pastor Hoag if you have any questions. The class is open to anyone who is interested. Gather your family members, friends, associates, acquaintances, and yourself and come to this eye-opening study...and watch the Word work on you!



**Pre-School Registration for September 2017-2018.** If you know of anyone who is interested, please have them call the pre-school at 815.485.6973. There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$60.00 per student. The tuition per month for the school year beginning September 2017, will be \$105.00 for two day students and \$130 for three day students. Children must have turned 3 by September 1, 2017.

Pre-School Board Meeting is scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 a.m.

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## **SOCIAL MINISTRY**

All ladies of Trinity are invited to join our committee. If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact the church office at 815.485.6973. **Our next meeting will be March 13th at 7:00 p.m.** at Jeanine Welsh's home.



### **St. Matthew's Outreach:**

We are continuing with our collection of clothing and household goods as well as food for St. Matthew's. Food items should be placed in the container at the top of the steps by the parking lot door. Clothing and household goods should be placed in the room at the East end of the church basement. Thanks to Chuck and Sandy Peters for taking items to St. Matthew's last month.



*Our pizza sale was held in February with the proceeds given to Regenerations.* The profit from the sale was \$340.10, an additional donation of \$30.00, and The Kissing Booth, which was held at the Valentine's Day Party for the Sunday School, collected \$221.43 for a total of \$591.53 given to Regenerations. A special thanks to Jan Toepke, Jeanine Welsh and the Social Ministry Committee for all the great work they do.



**NEEDED:** Coffee Host/Hostess for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month after the early service. A sign-up sheet is on the hallway table. Please take a turn and sign up for one or more months.

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## **TRINITY'S 11th ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT!!**

Please join in the fun and bring your kids, grandkids and young relatives, along with a camera, baskets and smiles to TRINITY'S 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT! Fifth Graders and younger, please join us again on Saturday, April 15, 2017 starting at 10:00 a.m. for a lot of fun in a short period of time! Lineup will start 5 minutes before 10:00 a.m. The Easter Bunny will once again make an appearance for the little ones in the gym!

### **TO THE TRINITY CONGREGATION**

In the past, I have had many members of our congregation ask me about donations for the East Egg Hunt. Yes, absolutely you can donate if you'd like! I am happy to accept wrapped candy, plastic Easter eggs or small items such as stickers, small toys, bouncy balls, crafty stampers, clings or anything small enough to fit inside a plastic Easter Egg. Donations can be dropped off in the marked box in the church office anytime now up to Wednesday, April 12, 2017. Thank you again for your generosity and support!

### **CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

As part of a Service Project for Confirmation Class and to make Trinity's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Egg Hunt a success, we are asking the families of all Confirmands to please donate at least one of the following: bag of individually wrapped candy; toys, wrist bands, or other small items that fit inside an egg. Please leave your donation in the box which is located in the Church Office anytime between now and Wednesday, April 12, 2017. Thank you. Please, no candy containing nuts due to allergies.

Confirmation Class Students - do you need Service Hours? Helpers are needed to hide the eggs downstairs. Meet me, Doris Bay around 9:30 a.m. the day of the Hunt in the Gym and I'll show you where to go. PLEASE SEE THE SIGN UP SHEET ON THE DESK OUTSIDE THE GYM! THANKS!

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**Scrip Fundraiser** - Thank you so very much for your participation in this fundraiser. Our next order deadline will be [Monday March 6 at noon](#). Cards will be ready for pick up at church the following weekend, March 11 & 12. Any questions can be directed to Angie Minett at [minett411@yahoo.com](mailto:minett411@yahoo.com) or [\(815\)467-2537](tel:(815)467-2537). There are order forms and lists of participating stores on the table below the youth bulletin board. You can also check out [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com) to learn more about this simple way to help the youth earn funds.



**The March Sign-Up sheets for Readers, Greeters and MorningStar Mission are on the hallway table!**



**April 14<sup>th</sup> - Good Friday Cross Walk sponsored by 14 the New Lenox Ministerial Association, starting at St. Jude at 10:00 a.m.** All denominations are invited to participate in this symbolic walk of Jesus to Calvary, following a wooden cross carried by youth from various churches. Walkers will follow the cross and offer a hymn, brief homily and prayer at each stop. It will finish here at Trinity around noon.



**MorningStar Mission:** The next serving dates for March are the 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all the volunteers who help each week. It was nice to have a couple new volunteers. If you are interested in helping, the sign up sheet is on the hallway table.

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**Chancel Guild:** The next meeting will be **Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** All ladies of Trinity are invited to visit. Hostesses are Wendy Kaun and Jan Prospero.



**The Chancel Guild will again be decorating the Chancel area of church with a variety of Easter flowers this year.** Order forms are on the hallway table and on the stand outside the church office. **Forms, along with payment, must be turned in by Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.** If you have any questions, please call Kay Purnell at 815.485.9017 or call the church office at 815.485.6973. Prices this year are as follows:

Lily - \$11.25 each  
Tulip - \$9.50 each  
Hyacinth - \$9.50 each  
Azalea - \$12.50 each



**Women's League** The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 28th at 12:30 p.m. We will be having Patti Jo Scates, Director of Sales & Marketing from the Cottages as our speaker. Hostesses will be Jan Toepke, Pat Fuerst and Millie Steinbrenner. All ladies of Trinity are invited and encouraged to attend.



**ALTAR FLOWERS:** Flowers are placed on our altar every Sunday 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. The flower order forms are attached to the cabinet in the hallway outside the church office. If you would like to give altar flowers, complete the form and place it in the Chancel Guild mailbox in the church office. ***We have two open weekends in March – the***

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**5<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup>.** If you have any questions, please call Kay Purnell at 815.485.9017 or email Kay at [purnell51@hotmail.com](mailto:purnell51@hotmail.com). The cost of the flowers is \$9.00 per vase or \$18.00 for both vases. The flowers may be picked up after the Sunday service.



**THRIVENT MEMBERS – Don't forget to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars by March 31<sup>st</sup>.** You can do this online or call 1-800-THRIVENT. See Michelle Hoag if you have questions.

**Thrivent is hosting a Retirement and Estate Strategies Workshop** right here at Trinity on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 10:00 AM. There is a signup sheet in the hallway.

## PRAYER

*changes things*

The January-March 2017 Portals of Prayer are still available. Pick up your copy from the wall display in the Narthex or from the hallway table. The April-June 2017 will be available in mid March.



### **Wanted: Room to Rent**

As most of you know, we hired Virgil Switzer more than a year ago as our church's Custodian. Virgil currently rents a room in Joliet at The Plaza Hotel and is able to take the train to and from there to our church. He would very much like to relocate to New Lenox if possible so that he is closer to our church, so we wanted to see if any of our members might have a room in their home they would be willing to rent to Virgil. If you or someone you know (neighbors, etc.) would be interested in this, please contact Virgil, Pastor Hoag or Jeff McDonald to discuss the particulars.

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### Holy Week & Easter

April 13, 2017	Maundy Thursday Service	7:30 p.m.
April 14, 2017	Good Friday Cross Walk	10:00 a.m.
April 14, 2017	Good Friday Service	7:30 p.m.
April 15, 2017	Easter Vigil with Communion	5:00 p.m.
April 16, 2017	Easter Sunday Services	7:00 and 10:30 a.m.
(Easter Breakfast immediately following the 7:00 a.m. service)		



**VBS – SAVE THE DATE! End of June. More details to follow.**

**Church office hours:** Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am till 1pm.

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