

March 2018

Dear Friends of Trinity,

I hope you are enjoying the Midweek Lenten videos and discussions that have been taking place on Wednesday evenings. Lent is a wonderful season to reflect, to learn, to pray, to repent, and to receive the good gifts of the Lord.

I commend the good people at [The Bible Project](#) for their work in making the Bible more accessible and easier to comprehend. As I've viewed many of their videos I have found very little to disagree with. I will say, though, that they are weak when it comes to the Sacraments. But other than that, their videos are spot on!

Their videos are free with no strings attached. You can view them at their website (<http://thebibleproject.com>) which also has numerous resources for study and reflection. But if you only want to watch the videos, you can go to their channel on YouTube and enjoy.

They also have a smartphone app called *Read Scripture*. It's a one-year Bible reading plan that includes their videos about the books of the Bible. It even has a feature in which you can set a daily reminder to use the app. You can find the app at the Apple Store and on Google Play.

I pray God's blessings on your Lenten observances as we all, together, journey to the cross and the empty tomb!

In Christ,  
Pastor Hoag

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## MARCH 2018 NEWSLETTER



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.

#### 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.

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***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.

- 3/7 Youth group
- 3/14 Church Council
- 3/21 Social ministry

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**UPDATE FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT, JEFF McDONALD.** A quick update on the stained glass window restoration project is that we have collected just over \$39,000 in donations for this project and we are awaiting several bids from various vendors who are able to complete this work for us. We plan to compare the bids and explore references for the finalists before making a selection, but we are in good shape at this point for having this work completed in 2018. I'd like to thank everyone who has already donated to this project and those who continue to do so, as it is remarkable to me that when there is a need at Trinity, our members come together and fill it!

A key date for your calendars in March is Sunday, March 4th, when we will be hosting representatives of the Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dog program. As you know, our Social Ministry committee looks for organizations beyond our four walls to support each year. This year, they have chosen the Comfort Dog program and we are looking forward to their visit to our church on March 4th between services. Plan to arrive around 9:15 a.m. in the gym that day to learn more about this program. We plan to collect donations for this program through Easter. Please sign up for our annual Easter Breakfast as well, which will occur on Easter Sunday, April 1st, after the sunrise service. Proceeds from this breakfast will also go to the Comfort Dog program. You have likely seen these dogs in the news of late, as they were deployed to Parkland, Florida immediately following the school shooting and at the invitation of a local Pastor in that area. For more details on them, please visit our Facebook page where various videos and articles about them have been posted.

Finally, I want to restate a previous appeal, which is to consider inviting a friend or neighbor to Trinity to share in our worship services. I know winter weather can be an impediment to getting out on a Sunday, but our attendance through January and February this year was down quite a bit compared to previous years. Studies have shown that many people select a church home based simply on being asked to attend by a friend or neighbor. If you enjoy being a member of our church, consider extending that joy to someone you know. The worst they can do is say no and sometimes people need to be asked several times before they will actually try a new church, so why not use this Lenten season to look for ways to evangelize on behalf of our church? You may be surprised at the response.



**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 – 9:15 a.m. in the library**

**Wednesday Morning – 8:30 a.m. in the library.**

**Thursday Evening – 7:00 pm in the library.**



**Pre-School Registration for September 2018-2019.** 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 2018, will be \$110.00 for two day students and \$135 for three day students. Children must have turned 3 by September 1, 2018.

Pre-School Board Meeting is scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 a.m.



### **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 12th at 7:00 p.m.**

# **Incredible!**



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Is what people will be saying when they get their products from TJ's Pizza and Fund Raising Co. So, we encourage you to help us, even if you just purchase for your own family! It will greatly help Trinity to realize our goals in raising money for LLC Comfort Dogs.

Social Ministry will be selling TJ's Pizza and Desserts. Ordering dates will be March 7<sup>th</sup> through March 25<sup>th</sup>. Samples will be available at the Lenten Suppers. Delivery date is Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup> 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 the Comfort Dog Program of the Lutheran Church Charities.

March 4<sup>th</sup> – We will be having the Lutheran Church Charities Comfort Dogs coming for a visit and presentation about 9:15 am in the gym. This will be a charity we will be sponsoring this year.



#### **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.



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

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### TRINITY'S 12th ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT!!

Grab your Easter Basket and bring it to church on Saturday, March 31! The Annual EASTER EGG HUNT starts at 10:00 a.m. Bring your kids, grandkids and/or young relatives, along with a camera and smiles and join us! Fifth Graders and younger please. It's a whole lot of fun - in a short period of time! Lineup will start outside the gym 5 minutes before 10:00 a.m. The Easter Bunny will once again make a special 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 if they too can donate to the Easter Egg Hunt. The answer is: Yes! Absolutely! 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 an Easter Egg. Donations can be dropped off in the marked box in the church office now through Wednesday, March 28, 2018 (which will be my last pick up day). Thank you again for your generosity and support!

### CONFIRMATION CLASS

As part of your Service Project for Confirmation Class and to make Trinity's 12<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, March 28, 2018. Thank you so much! We can't do this without your help!

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!



**Scrip Fundraiser** - Thank you so very much for your participation in this fundraiser. Our next order deadline will be [Monday March 5 at noon](#). Cards will be ready for pick up at church the following weekend, March 10 & 11. Any questions can be directed to Angie Minett at [minett411@yahoo.com](mailto:minett411@yahoo.com) or [\(815\)467-2537](tel:8154672537). 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.

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

There are a couple of new signup sheets this month:

1. Easter Breakfast
2. Retirement Workshop provided by Thrivent
3. Funeral help and donations



**March 30<sup>th</sup> - Good Friday Cross Walk sponsored by 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 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<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.

**Chancel Guild:** The next meeting will be **Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** All ladies of Trinity are invited to visit. Hostesses are Doris Bay and Denise Buchanan



Chancel Guild will again be decorating the chancel area with a variety of Easter flowers for the Easter services. If you would like to help decorate the chancel area by purchasing a plant for them to use, please fill out an order form and turn it in by Sunday, March

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25, 2018. Place your completed order form and payment in the marked folder in the office. Make checks payable to "Trinity Lutheran Chancel Guild." Contact Kay Purnell if you have any questions (815) 485-9017 or [purnellk51@hotmail.com](mailto:purnellk51@hotmail.com). Plants may be picked up after the 10:30 Easter Day Service. Thank You!

Lily \$20.00  
Hyacinth \$20.00  
Tulips \$18.50  
Azaleas \$27.50



**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](mailto:purnellk51@hotmail.com). Flowers may be picked up **after** the 10:30 service. Thank you to all who participate!



**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** Workshop right here at Trinity on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 2:00 P.M. There is a signup sheet in the hallway. Thrivent will provide refreshments.

## 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.

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## Holy Week & Easter

March 29, 2018 - Maundy Thursday Service      7:30 p.m.  
March 30, 2018 - Good Friday Cross Walk              10:00 a.m.  
March 30, 2018 - Good Friday Service              7:30 p.m.  
March 31 - Easter Vigil with Communion              5:00 p.m.  
April 1, 2018 - 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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