

March 2019

Dear Friends of Trinity,

Lent is a penitential season. Actually... every season is a penitential season. It's just that it gets greater emphasis during Lent. Martin Luther once wrote, "When our Lord said, 'Repent!', he meant that all of a Christian's life should be one of repentance." To repent means to change your mind and reverse direction. You were heading one way, but then you change course.

Lent is also a good time to examine the course on which we are all traveling in our life's journey. With that in mind, our Lenten Services on Wednesday evenings will focus on Biblical Themes as presented by the folks at The Bible Project. These short instructional videos will spark conversation and deepen understanding of the Biblical narrative. We watched a few of these last year, and we will do the same this year.

On the Sundays during Lent, we will examine tough questions that we sometimes ask. See the **Explore God** page in this newsletter for these. My sermons will address these questions each week, not so much to seek easy answers, but to put these issues in Christian perspective. This will be a great opportunity to bring family members and friends who struggle with these issues. Invite folks to come to church with you! During the Sunday School hour, I will facilitate a discussion group on each of these questions. Please contact me if you would like to participate or sign up for it on the sign-up sheet on the table next to the gym.

My prayer for us all is a Blessed Lenten season. God's blessings to you all in Christ!

In Christ,
Pastor Hoag

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LENT BEGINS March 6, 2019

Ash Wednesday Service will be on March 6th at 7:30 p.m.

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

exploreGod™

**JOIN US FOR A
7-WEEK SERIES
WHERE WE WILL
EXPLORE THE
BIG QUESTIONS**

- 1 Does Life Have a Purpose?
- 2 Is There a God?
- 3 Why Does God Allow Pain & Suffering?
- 4 Is Christianity Too Narrow?
- 5 Is Jesus Really God?
- 6 Is The Bible Reliable?
- 7 Can I Know God Personally?

COMING ON THE SUNDAYS DURING LENT!

Beginning March 9 and 10 at each service, and for the following 7 weeks, Pastor Hoag will be presenting this sermon series that grapples with the big questions of the Christian faith. We all struggle with these questions. But by asking them we'll gain a more clarity on what the Bible teaches us. Bring family and friends, especially those who you know are struggling with these issues.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Beginning March 10 during Adult Bible class at 9:15am, Pastor Hoag will facilitate a discussion group that will wrestle with these important questions. You are invited! There is no cost to attend. Sign up on the sheet that can be found on the sign-up table next to the gym, or let Pastor know that you will be attending. This will be a great opportunity to

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bring friends and family who really struggle with these issues to discuss them in a safe and welcoming environment. Contact Pastor Hoag if you have any questions about this series.



MIDWEEK LENTEN SERIES 2019

With the upcoming Lenten season, we will once again be having Midweek Lenten Services on Wednesdays at 7:30pm. Beginning on March 13, a video series from The Bible Project will be presented as food for discussion. These very entertaining videos will be sure to pique our curiosity and bring clarity to themes that weave their way through the Bible. Themes that we will be exploring are: The Image of God, Exile, The Way of Exile, The Son of Man, and Sacrifice and Atonement. Bring family and friends to this insightful and meaningful 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. Our youth will be serving at all the Lenten Suppers and the free will offering will go help with the National Youth Gathering trip in July.

3/13 Youth group
3/20 Chancel Guild
3/27 Sunday School
4/3 Church Council
4/10 Social Ministry

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UPDATE FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT, JEFF McDonald There is not a lot to report this month, but I will add a few highlights from the February council meeting. We made the second payment to Suevel Studios for their stained glass work and we are waiting for one or two minor repairs yet from them to complete their work. If you see tape on the stained glass window nearest the altar, this is the reason for that. We should have this work done in March and then we should be in a great spot for the next 15-20 years before a more major repair/maintenance job is needed on our stained glass.

Moving on to the kitchen, which we hope to be our next major project, we have draft plans drawn up for the kitchen that we intend to use for our permit application as well as for any contractors that we may hire to do parts of this job for us. We are planning to host one further meeting on Sunday, March 3rd, in the kitchen downstairs after the second service where we will review those plans to make sure there is consensus on the plans. If you'd like to see those plans, please plan to stop by around 11:30 on the 3rd of March. We plan to apply for the permit in March and we are hopeful that we won't be required to add any unforeseen steps to what we would like to do in this space.

We will plan to have another landscape clean-up day before Easter Sunday (hopefully when the weather is a bit warmer!), so please be on the lookout for that. It will be a Saturday morning and the more people we get, the faster it will go. Things are generally looking great around Trinity, and this is an opportunity to help make the outside of our church look as good as the inside.



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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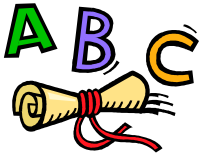


Bible Classes – everyone is invited to attend.

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 2019-2020. 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, 2019.



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 11th at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Jan Toepke.

Sunday, May 19th will be designated Survivor Sunday to honor cancer survivors and their caregivers. As in past years information on the New Lenox Relay for Life will be available. Luminaria bags will be available also. That evening at 6:00 we will be hosting Joan Aubele who wrote the book *The Dance: A Story of Love, Faith, and Survival*. At the age of 29, Joan was diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer. Throughout her journey, Joan was constantly reminded of the importance of prayer and relying on God in the most difficult times. Social Ministry invites you to come hear her emotional motivating story. A free will

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offering will be taken for the American Cancer Society. She will also have copies of her book for sale that evening.

We are also looking for transportation for Joan. She lives in Holiday Park, IL. As a result of her cancer she is partially disabled and is unable to drive long distances. It is about an hour trip from there to Trinity. She has asked us to provide transportation. If anyone is able to help out or has a suggestion, please contact Judi in the office or Jan Toepke.



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 sign-up sheet is on the hallway table for volunteers for the 4th Sunday of each month in 2019. **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.*



TRINITY'S 13th ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT!!

Grab your Easter Basket and bring it to church on Saturday, April 20th! 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

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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, April 17, 2019 (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 13th 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



Scrip Fundraiser - Thank you so very much for your participation in this fundraiser. Our next order deadline will be [Monday March 4th at noon](#). Cards will be ready for pick up at church the following weekend, March 9th & 10th. Any questions can be directed to Angie Minett at 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 to learn more about this simple way to help the youth earn funds.

Youth News:

On Ash Wednesday, March 6th, the Youth Group is having a fund raiser at POTBELLY Sandwich Shop in New Lenox. Between the hours of 5:00 and 8:00 pm, you can place an order and Trinity's Youth Group will receive 25% of the proceeds. All you have to do is mention our Youth Group to the cashier and enjoy your sandwich.

March 9th at 9:30 am - Youth and adults are invited to come and help tidy up the basement kitchen. We're getting everything ready for the Lenten Suppers which will begin on March 13th. The youth families attending the National Youth Gathering will be leading the cleaning.

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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 Attendance
2. Easter Breakfast Help
3. Provide Meals for Members in Need of Help



April 19th - 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 4th and 18th. 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 signup sheet is on the hallway table.

Chancel Guild: The next meeting will be **Saturday, March 2nd at 9:00 a.m.** Lenten suppers and Easter flowers are on the agenda. All ladies of Trinity are invited to join us!

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Chancel Guild will again be decorating the chancel area with a variety of Easter flowers for the Easter services. Order forms and prices will be available in mid March. Watch the bulletin for more details.



ALTAR FLOWERS: Flowers are placed on the altar every weekend to enhance and beautify the altar area in memory of a loved one, to commemorate a birthday, wedding, anniversary, or in celebration of God's blessings. A 2019 flower chart showing open weekends is posted in the cabinet across the general 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. 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 contact Kay Purnell at purnellk51@hotmail.com or (815) 485-9017. Flowers may be picked up after the 10:30 Sunday service. Thank you to all who participate!

PRAYER

changes things

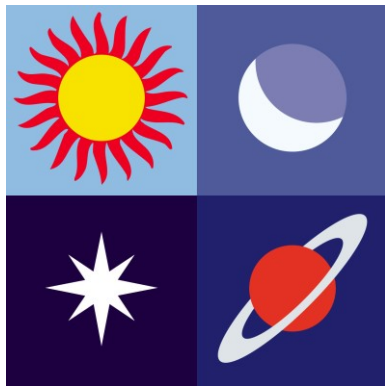
The January-March 2019 Portals of Prayer are still available. Pick up your copy from the wall display in the Narthex or from the hallway table. The April-June 2019 will be available in mid March.

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Holy Week & Easter

April 18, 2019 - Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 p.m.
April 19, 2019 - Good Friday Cross Walk 10:00 a.m.
April 19, 2019 - Good Friday Service 7:30 p.m.
April 20 - Easter Vigil with Communion 5:00 p.m.
April 21, 2019 - Easter Sunday Services 7:00 and 10:30 a.m.
(Easter Breakfast immediately following the 7:00 a.m. service)



Vacation Bible School

VBS – Looking for someone who loves to decorate!! Our theme this year is stars and planets. If you would like to help decorate, please contact Michelle Hoag. We're also glad to accept volunteers in all other areas! Student registration will begin in April.

Church office hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am till 2pm.

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