

March 2020

Dear Friends of Trinity,

Some folks make it a practice to give up something for Lent—a vice, a habit, etc. Others take on additional responsibilities to their already busy lives—serving others, devotional observances, etc. These are all well and good to do. However, the focus of Lent is Christ's journey to the cross. Any Lenten practice should ideally have that focus in mind.

Jesus' suffering and death is relatable to us in that we see and experience these things in our world. We have yet to find solutions to eradicate these from our world, try as we may. We have ways of delaying these in our own lives through visits to the doctor and adopting certain lifestyles. But we all know what is inevitable. We just don't like to think about it too much.

It's actually good for us to ponder these things. They remind us that, in the big picture, we are more helpless than we think. And it's precisely at this point where we have a comradery with Jesus. Or, better yet, Jesus has comradery with us! He did this to give us the way to participate in his divinity and so that his life can be seen through us.

But there is strength for us along the way. The promises of God's Word ring in our ears and quicken our hearts. The Sacrament of Holy Communion fills our souls with grace. Jesus gives himself for us to reassure us that the journey leads to resurrection glory.

I pray for a Blessed Lent for you. Be attentive to the Spirit of Christ Jesus who guards and sustains you with his grace to life everlasting.

In Christ,

Pastor Hoag

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MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE THEME 2020: SPIRITUAL BEINGS

Join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 for a fascinating look at the beings that inhabit the unseen realm. We'll examine their roles and why they are important to the Biblical narrative. With help from videos from our friends at The Bible Project, we will explore this important, but often overlooked, dimension of our salvation story. Here are the topics we'll look at each week:

March 4—Introduction to Spiritual Beings/Elohim

March 11—The Divine Council

March 18—Angels and Cherubim/The Angel of the Lord

March 25—The Satan and Demons

April 1—The New Humanity



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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. 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.

- 3/4 Chancel Guild – Sloppy Joes
- 3/11 Social Ministry – Hot Beef Sandwiches
- 3/18 Youth Group
- 3/25 Church Council
- 4/1 Sunday School – Beef & Chicken Tacos



UPDATE FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT, JEFF McDonald

A quick update on the kitchen, especially since Lent is now here. We made some significant progress in the last month on the kitchen, but final steps are still underway. We expect to be able to use the new space for at least some of our Lenten suppers, but the initial soup and sandwich meals during Lent will need to be served in the upstairs gym while we await the last stages of the kitchen project to be completed. It promises to be worth the wait, and I would encourage you to go take a peek at the progress if you haven't done so lately, as it really is coming together nicely.

Shifting away from the kitchen (yes, I sometimes think and talk about other things!), if you don't follow Trinity's Facebook page, please go and "Like" it to stay current on what is happening at Trinity and to make sure that you are seeing our more frequent updates. Bob Blecke, our Director of Outreach, has done a good amount of research on the topic of churches and their online footprint and has determined that a more active presence could help us to spread our message to a wider audience. The more each of you engage with Trinity's Facebook page, the more visible it becomes. The added bonus is that there have been some really interesting posts of late and you're likely to learn a thing or two by engaging more actively with us online, so please be sure to check us out if you haven't already.

Speaking of online, since we rolled out the ability to give electronically, some members have chosen to set up regular withdrawals for their offering so that they don't have to remember to bring that with them each week. This is entirely up to you, but it's something that is available so I just wanted to let you know about it. You can link to our online giving page from Trinity's web page. We are in the process of adding cards to each pew that state "I GIVE ELECTRONICALLY" so that if you do want to change over to electronic giving, you won't have to have that awkward

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glance at the ushers when they come by - you can just drop one of these cards in the plate instead. This, too, is optional, but I wanted to explain what those were for.

I do plan to photograph any interested members and guests on Easter Sunday this year as has been done in the past few years. If you'd like an updated picture of yourself in front of our beautiful altar on Easter Sunday, just plan to come up after the end of each of our services on Sunday morning for this. All pictures will be posted on our Facebook page. This has been a great way to get updated pictures of our members, so please plan to participate in this on Easter Sunday. There is no cost associated with this. Here is a look at last year's album of pictures: https://www.facebook.com/pg/TrinityNewLenox/photos/?tab=album&album_id=2135383353163559

For some history, here are Easter Sunday albums from...

2018: https://www.facebook.com/pg/TrinityNewLenox/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1618802674821632 and

2017: https://www.facebook.com/pg/TrinityNewLenox/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1297800590255177

Enjoy the pictures and I hope to include you in the 2020 edition.



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!**



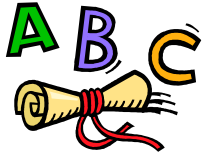
Bible Classes – everyone is invited to attend.

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.

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Pre-School Registration for September 2020-2021. 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 2020, will be \$115.00 for two day students and \$145 for three day students. Children must have turned 3 by September 1, 2020.



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 9th at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of 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.

Also, there is a new area to place donations of clothing and other items other than food. It is in the old bathroom by the lift in the basement. Please bring your donations in bags or boxes for easier storage and removal. If you have questions, please ask the church secretary.

Social Ministry is looking for people to help load up the donated items for St. Matthews. We have drivers but are in need of people who can help get the items from the church basement to the transporting vehicles. If you have an hour and can help out, there is a signup sheet on the hallway table. Please add your name, phone number, and any dates you would be available.

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TRINITY'S 14th ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT!!

Grab your Easter Basket and bring it to church on Saturday, April 11th! 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, April 1, 2020 (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 14th 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 by April 1st. The Confirmation Classes will be helping to stuff the plastic eggs after their Confirmation Class.



Scrip Fundraiser - Thank you so very much for your participation in this fundraiser. Our next order deadline will be [Monday March 2nd and March 30th at noon](#). Cards will be ready for pick up at church the following weekend after each order. Any questions can be directed to Angie Minett at 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 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 by the middle of this month:

1. Easter Breakfast Attendance
2. Easter Breakfast Help



April 10th - 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 2nd and 16th. 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.

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Chancel Guild: The next meeting will be **Saturday, March 7th at 9:00 a.m.** Easter flowers are on the agenda. All ladies of Trinity are invited to join us!



Chancel Guild will 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 bulletins 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 2020 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!

Flowers left in the refrigerator will be disposed of after 2 weeks.



Used Medication Bottles – Beginning Ash Wednesday and continuing through Sunday, April 9th, Kim Blecke will be collecting empty pill bottles. **Please remove the labels.** There will be a decorated box on the hallway table near the gym for this collection. The final destination for these containers will be 3rd world countries where medication is often dispensed in a piece of paper.

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PRAYER

changes things

The January-March 2020 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 2020 will be available in mid March.



Holy Week & Easter

April 9, 2020 - Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 p.m.
April 10, 2020 - Good Friday Cross Walk 10:00 a.m.
April 10, 2019 - Good Friday Service 7:30 p.m.
April 11, 2020 - Easter Vigil with Communion 5:00 p.m.
April 12, 2020 - Easter Sunday Services 7:00 and 10:30 a.m.

(Easter Breakfast immediately following the 7:00 a.m. service)

There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday.

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

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