

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASTER LILIES – It is that wonderful time again & the sign-up is ready for Easter Lilies. This year, they are \$11 each. Envelopes are provided for your convenience. Orders are due **March 26th**! We will not be able to accept orders after this date.

GREAT NEWS! - More and more people are coming to Wednesday night dinners! People have been spotted that have never attended before and it's amazing to watch! But **PLEASE** remember to **sign up** for the Lenten Dinners, this includes Laura and other members who are always here. We don't want anyone to miss all of the wonderful things that Carol has made for us! Last week, we ran out of food and several people went without. Only 20 people were on the sign up, but 36 people attended. **BUT WE CAN HELP!** If you cannot get in to sign the sheet, in person, send Laura an Email and she will add you to the list. Whatever we can do to make it easier for you to enjoy. While you are there, you can sign-up for the **Good Friday** Fish Dinner, too! **April 7, beginning at 5:30.**

LENTEN WEDNESDAYS - Our theme for Lent this year is **Engage Your Faith!** We will come together to enjoy a lite supper of soup, bread, and salad. Dinner will be followed by Holden Evening Prayer in the sanctuary. During worship we will have guest speakers and preachers join us to talk about different issues that affect our everyday lives. We will explore the following topics: interfaith relationships with the Jewish community, racial reconciliation, reaching out to the homeless, global missions' efforts, and being good stewards of creation.

The dates are **22nd, and 29th**. Dinner will be at 5:30pm, and worship will start at 6:15pm. We are in need of volunteers to **CLEAN UP**.

PERSONAL CARE KITS - The LWR Quilters are finishing up their care packages and need approx. 20 more towels. They need to be light-weight and between 20x40" and 27x52". Darker colors are recommended.

FRUIT OF THE SPIRITS – Our next gathering will be **TODAY**, 4 pm, at the home of Pastor & Phyllis Sims. Their address can be found in the online directory or on the sign-up sheet in the Sun Porch.

BOOK EVENT! - On **Saturday, March 25th** at 3pm we will welcome Kevin Nye to Trinity to discuss his book *Grace Can Lead Us Home: A Christian Call to End Homelessness*. He will lead a discussion about the issues surrounding homelessness and how faith communities can engage with those issues to help our unhoused neighbors. There will also be a short prayer service to follow. You can order Kevin's book on amazon or let Pastor Elise know you would like a copy and she can order it for you. The cost for the book is \$20.

Worship Training! - Are you interested in helping in our worship services, but it makes you nervous or you don't know what to do? Let's fix that! On **March 26th** after the 1115am service we will have a training event to walk people through how to be assisting ministers, lay readers, acolytes, ushers, and altar guild volunteers! Please let Pastor Elise know if you are interested in attending.

Next SACK SUPPER SAINTS - book is "It Ends with Us" by Colleen Hoover. We will discuss it on **April 12th** at 6pm in the youth room. Sack suppers at 6 and discussion starting at

630. All ladies are welcome! We will do a new book each meeting, so jump in whenever you can! If you have any questions or need help getting the book, please call/text Anne Cain at 865-206-4390.

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY - If you have been thinking about joining Trinity as an official member, we will be welcoming new members into our church family on **Sunday April 16th** at all services! If you would like to join the church and weren't able to attend the new member interest meeting, please contact Pastor Elise and she will get you all the information you need!

LAY WEEDERS – *Spring has sprung, winter's fell, our yard's not looking, all that swell!* Anyone who is interested in the getting the grounds ready for Easter/Spring, please contact Dennis Luker or the office.

DINNERS for 8 - We are gathering a list of people interested in **DINNERS for 8**, which will begin after Easter. Those who participate will host one meal, either in their home or at a restaurant, and be guests at three other meals, which will be scheduled later in the year, with the exact dates being negotiable among those attending. If a restaurant meal is scheduled by the hosts, everyone will pay his/her own expenses; if you are a host in your own home, you will provide the entree and beverages, with those attending furnishing an appetizer, a salad, a vegetable, or a dessert. This is a wonderful opportunity to become better acquainted with your church family, and we hope you will join us. There is a sign-up sheet in the Sun Porch Area.

CONFIRMATION AND FIRST COMMUNION: If you have a child/ young person in your life who either has started or needs to start confirmation please contact Pastor Elise! Also,

if you feel your child is ready for first communion instruction please reach out as well and we will schedule a class time!

ATTENDANCE- If you could, include a name and address for your visitors, so that our Evangelism Committee may send them a nice “Thank You” note. Let us know you are here! Remember to complete your **attendance slip** each week. THANK YOU to those who faithfully do this!!

MEMBER OF THE MONTH – **Would you like to help me out?** Want to help the congregation know each other better? Please, consider completing the “Member of the Month” questionnaire, located in the Welcome Center/coffee area. It’s not showing off to let people know more about you! Even if you have been member of the month in the past, feel free to send it in again. Completed sheets may be left in Laura’s mailbox. **DON’T** forget your name.

KNITTERS - Like to knit, crochet, or do other crafts? The knitting/crochet group meets the **second and fourth Saturdays** from 9:00 am to noon in the library. **Come join in!** Teachers are available if you can’t knit or crochet and want to learn.

VENMO– Our username is **@trinitylutheran**. Thank you to our members who use this service. We hope it is useful to your family.



**Trinity Lutheran Church
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 19, 2023
9:30 Service**

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

PRELUDE

This is Amazing Grace

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

People: Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Holy God,

we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, † forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

GOSPEL READING John 9:1-41

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam"

(which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

Children's Sermon

Pastor Elise Anderson

SERMON

Pastor Elise Anderson

HYMN OF THE DAY Amazing Grace/My Chains

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pastor: Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Creating God, by your word you have made all things, and you hate nothing you have made. Teach us to perceive the beauty of the breadth of your creation, from the grandest mountain range to the smallest springtime bud.

Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials. Encourage them to lead with justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all.

Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those who grieve.

Especially, do we pray for... **Ernie** Martin (Muncy Family), **Marcus** Bandalan (Penticuff family), **Ray** Vandergriff (Bobbie Iles), **The Szeglin family**, **Judy & Ella** Buck (Buck family), **Liam** Muncy & **Mikey** Teems (Muncy family), **Jennifer** Marks (Tacy Gorton), **Bill** Minninger (Art Minninger), **Jessica** Duke (Norma Hansen), **Erin** Woodfin (Giesel family), **Jack** Rogers (Karin Rogers), **Sheila** Hilley, Susan Bolinger (Ginny Minninger), **Kristen** Esparza (Steve Jackson), **Michael** Schmank (Loli Allen), **Elaine & Judy** Schoeller (Anne Cain), **Ida** Seneker, **Karen** Smith, **Rae** Snyder, **Leon** Stonecipher (Joyce Davis), **Maureen** Turner (Carol Bell), **Hedy** Vincent (Ingrid Fortuna)... and those we name before you now, both aloud and in our hearts...

God our host, you fill us at your table with more than we could ever ask. Feed us with hunger for justice. Equip the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors.

God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people. We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us.

Pastor: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also, with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

HOLY COMMUNION

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light.

Holy God, mighty and merciful, your people praise you, saying:
Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise you bound yourself to earth and all its creatures, granting them life and calling them to flourish, setting the sign of your bow in the clouds, the colors of your love and faithfulness.
Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise you bound yourself to your people of old, blessing them with family outnumbering the stars and calling them to be a blessing to others, showing them steadfast love in every generation and calling them to be a light to the nations.
Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise you joined us to Jesus, your Beloved, grafting us into your living Vine, and calling us to bear the fruit of your self-giving love.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember his life laid down and lifted up as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and these gifts of bread and wine. Bless us to be a blessing. Make us a sign of your faithfulness. Send us to tend and cherish the earth and to serve the world with mercy and love.

With all the saints in light, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, through Christ Jesus, in your Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

Communion Hymn

Open Our Eyes

COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together. **Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

God, the giver of love, Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

SENDING

Our God

DISMISSAL Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. **Thanks be to God.**