



HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



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Trinity Messenger

March 2023 Issue 2

*The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.
John 3:14-15*



You might think that as a pastor, who daily focuses on “religious” things and is surrounded by all things Christian that my relationship with God is always healthy and active. Truth be told, I, like many of God’s beloved children, become easily distracted by the busyness of life and the growing laundry list of obligations that accompany it. The many everyday tasks related to both work, parenting, and simply living in our modern world often get in the way of sustaining a healthy faith life and the committed relationship I desire with my Creator. The point is, no matter who we are we can easily become distracted from our relationship with God, and as a result our faith life suffers. So, we find ourselves needing to intentionally rearrange our priorities and recommit ourselves to maintaining our part of the relationship we desire with God. Thankfully, the church year offers us the opportunity to make the necessary adjustments to our faith lives.

It is my experience that the season of Lent naturally provides us with a grace-filled opportunity to recommit ourselves to the relationship God desires with us and we urgently need with God. The penitential nature of Lent and the unconditional love God freely offers us combine to deliver an open-ended invitation to take stock of our lives and make the necessary changes to live a renewed life that better reflects the nature of God’s love that we experience in Jesus’ commitment to us.

I believe the best way to reestablish and strengthen our relationship with God, as it is with all relationships, is to be in active and honest conversation. God desires this from us, and, unlike our sinful selves, offers the added promise of God’s free grace and the forgiveness it assures when we trustingly choose to reach out to God. A

renewed and recommitted relationship with the God who loves you is just words away.

So, what are you waiting for? Speak confidently with trust in God's love and God's promise of new life. It's yours for the asking. Go ahead. Don't be shy!

God's peace,

Pastor Mark



March Stewardship Special: Lutheran Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

- **Middle East Crisis**
- **Hurricane Response**
- **U.S. Flooding**
- **Horn of Africa Drought**
- **U.S. Tornadoes**
- **Eastern Europe Crisis Response**
- **U.S. Wildfires**
- **U.S. Severe Storms**
- **South Sudan Relief**
- **Middle East and Europe Refugee Crisis**
- **AMMPARO: Protecting Migrant Minors**

How We Work

We are a church that is a catalyst, convener and bridge builder. Lutheran Disaster Response collaborates with other disaster response organizations and religious entities in the United States and around the world. This enables the greatest stewardship of resources and maximum impact of response. We are a welcome partner because we respect the perspectives and strengths of others.

We recognize that every disaster is local. Because of this, we believe every response needs to be rooted in the community; we work to accompany that community from immediate relief through long-term recovery. In our international work we partner closely with companion churches and other Lutheran and ecumenical relief agencies to make sure local needs are being addressed and met. In the United States, we work through our extensive affiliate network and other partners to address these same concerns.

Lutheran Disaster Response strives to help the church continue to be church in the midst of disaster — following Christ's call to share hope and healing with our neighbor in need. Some key areas of work include:

- Providing emotional and spiritual care for people who have been affected by a disaster and for leaders who respond to a disaster
- Coordinating volunteers through our local affiliates
- Assisting refugees in a holistic way by meeting the varied needs of the community
- Promoting disaster risk-reduction by helping communities build their assets thereby reducing the effects of likely disasters
- Providing long-term recovery efforts by addressing the unmet needs months or even years after a disaster strikes

The Rev. Daniel Rift

Director, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response Fund

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

March 5-11 Calendar

Sunday, March 5	
9:00am	Sunday Worship
10:00am	Adult Forum
10:00am	Coffee Hour After Worship
2:00pm	Trinity Game Day
Monday, March 6	
10:00am	Women's Prayer Group
6:30pm	Yoga
7:00pm	Evangelism
Tuesday, March 7	
3:30pm	Trini Mini
6:00pm	Mazon: Pre K & Elementary
7:00pm	Bell Choir
7:00pm	Fellowship Committee Meeting
7:00pm	Finance Committee
8:00pm	Executive Council
Wednesday, March 8	
6:00pm	Bell Ensemble
6:30pm	Mazon: Middle & High School
6:45pm	Senior Choir Rehearsal
7:30pm	Evening Prayer
Thursday, March 9	
3:30pm	Trini Mini
7:00pm	Yoga
7:00pm	Thursday Worship
7:30pm	Council Meeting
Saturday, March 11	
7:30am	Walking Group

Saturday, March 11 - before you go to bed...set your clocks forward one hour.



[View This Month's Calendar Here](#)



March 5th Servers

Council: Kevin Gingrich, John Weiss
Assisting Minister: Ed Quirke
Lector: Ed Quirke
Acolyte: Anya Gilbert
Ushers: Norm Wangman, Phyllis Doughty, Winnie Gerlach
Altar Guild: Barb & Steve Sweigart, Andy Sweigart
Linens: Lori Spitzer
Deliver Flowers: Jo Hurst

Office Hours: March 6-10

We recommend you call the office prior to stopping in to ensure hours have not changed.
Office Phone: 717-733-4134 Pastor's Cell: 315-317-8517 Donna's Cell: 717-669-7831

Day	Sue	Pastor
Monday	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Tuesday	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Wednesday	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Thursday	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Friday	8:00 AM - Noon	OFF



Community Meals

Thank you to The New Cloister Restaurant for providing the meal for the Community Meal on Thursday 3/2 at no cost to Trinity! What an amazing community partner!

Community Meals continue at Holy Trinity during the month of March. Each Thursday our building will host the meal with various churches serving the meal each week.

Luncheon Watch Party:

"The Best of Times in Ephrata"

Sunday, March 12 after Adult Forum

Please join us for Lunch and a showing of "The Best of Times" ' Movie in the 1940s of Ephrata after Adult Forum on March 12th at 11:15 We have a signup sheet on the table in the Gathering Area if you would like to contribute to our lunch. We will have conversations about who and what is in the Movie. So if you are interested in the History of Ephrata please join us for this afternoon of Fellowship! *Ann Brossman is one of the Narrators. *Our own Pastor Smith is shown in Movie *Special Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Nissley for supplying the movie.



Essence of Joy Choir Concert

Holy Trinity Lutheran church cordially invites you to a free community concert performed by *Essence of Joy Choir* from Penn State University on Sunday, March 26, 2023 at 4:00 PM. This concert is sponsored through a grant from the Anne Brossman Sweigart Charitable Foundation.



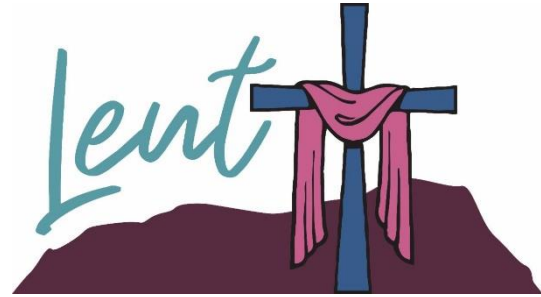
Choir Concert



Easter Egg Hunt

Please donate individually wrapped candy for our egg hunt. Candy may be placed in the basket on the piano in the gathering area.

**God on Tap – Tuesday March 28
Gather at Nonna Rosa
Restaurant, in Akron - Dinner
begins at 6:00 pm /
Conversation begins at 7:00 pm.
Dinner Reservations appreciated
on or before Sunday March 26.
Call Berstrasse Lutheran Church
Office. 717-733-7808**



LENT

*Devotional booklets for
Lent are on the piano in
the gathering area.*

*Remember that Evening
Prayer is held each
Wednesday at 7:30PM
during Lent.*

Help Earthquake Victims in Turkey and Syria

If the Spirit is moving you to respond to the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria, please follow this link to the [Lutheran World Relief \(LWR\) Website](#). There are simple instructions on how to give. Obviously, we want to hold those affected by this terrible event in our prayers as well as the relief efforts being carried out by LWR and its faithful volunteers and staff.

THE ADULT (all adults are welcome) LUNCH BUNCH

Will be going to The Evergreen Diner after the 9:00AM liturgy on **March 19**. We'll meet downstairs after the liturgy. All are welcome. For reservations, please call Cheryl Plummer by **March 11** at 625-3187. Plan to join us!

What Time Is It?Tea

Time!

Well, almost time _____

If anyone is interested in helping with another, "Not So High Tea," in May, please tell Kathy Kuhns by phone, in person, or online. Ph. 610-301-8001 and e-mail, tibby2002@hotmail.com.

"Pinky fingers up, Ladies!!"

EASTER FLOWERS 2023

It is time once again to think about Easter flowers as we prepare to celebrate the Lord's resurrection, April 9, 2023.

Flowers may be presented to the glory of God and "In memory of..." or "In honor of..."

Orders may be brought into or mailed to the church office. All mail orders must be received no later than Monday, March 20, and must be accompanied by payment. Make Checks payable to Holy Trinity.

The cost of each plant is as follows:

Tulip - \$6 -6.5" pot Daffodils - \$10.60- 8" pot

Lilies - \$8 - 5-6 blooms Mums - \$7 - 6" pot

Hyacinths - \$6.25 -3 bulbs 6.5" pot

(Sorry, no color choice)

Persons ordering flowers are responsible for picking them up following the Easter Day Liturgy.

NAME _____

PHONE _____

How many _____ Lily \$8.00

How many _____ Daffodils \$10.60

How many _____ Tulips \$6.00

How many _____ Mums \$7.00

How many _____ Hyacinths \$6.25

To the glory of God and:
IN MEMORY OF or IN HONOR OF

AMOUNT PAID \$ _____

Trini Mini Invites You to Join Us for Naturalist Programs

Trini Mini has received funding for providing special programs during 2023. We want to invite the congregation and friends thereof to join us for these programs. All programs are on **Tuesdays from 4:15 to 5:15**. We will meet in the Gym or fellowship Hall. Please join us as we learn more about the following:

March 21, 2023 ---- Birds, Nest, Eggs and Babies

April 18 ---- Catch the Wind

May 30, 2023 ---- Butterflies and Moths

October 24, 2023 ---- Backyard Wildlife

Nature programs provided by Lancaster County Department of Parks and Recreation, Environmental Education Team. Funding for the Programs provided by a grant from the Anne Brossman Sweigart Charitable Foundation, Dan Doremus, grant writer.

Thanks for reading! Have a great week ahead!

