

Lenten 2024

Newsletter

of

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

918 Tayman Avenue

Somerset, Pennsylvania 15501

*Together in Jesus Christ our
mission is to serve faithfully,
boldly, and joyfully.*

YOU ARE MORE
THAN WELCOME.
YOU ARE INVITED!

**Weekly in-person Worship
with Holy Communion
on Sundays in the Sanctuary**
8:00 a.m. Spoken Liturgy
10:00 a.m. Music and Hymns

5:00 p.m. Holy Communion
in the Chapel **each** Sunday
5:45 p.m. Prayers for Healing and
Laying on of hands in the Chapel
each Sunday

Lent Begins
Wednesday, February 14
Ash Wednesday



Pastor Ruth Kocha Jensen
pastorjensen.trinity@gmail.com

Director of Music
Nicholas Carroll
carrollpiano@yahoo.com

Child Care and Learning Center
Director
Jody Jurgeevich
trinitylutheranchildcare@gmail.com

Office Manager
Ann Voytish
trinluth918@verizon.net

Sexton
Douglas Fanale

Part-time Sexton
Frank Kyle

How to Contact Us:

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Child Care (814) 445-5436

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L E N T E N
2 0 2 4

Volume 25, Issue 1—February 7, 2024

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

Just Like John *based on Mark 6:14-29*

All-Knowing God,
John the Baptizer
was willing to give up his life to serve you.
Jesus was willing to give up his life for us.
Paul encouraged Christians everywhere
to present themselves as living sacrifices to God.

Yet some of us struggle to sacrifice TV or tennis,
pleasures or pastimes
for a few minutes of weekly worship.

Teach us to value the faith enough to invest ourselves in it.

Teach us to love you
more than we love pleasure or comfort or safety.
Make us ready to speak truth to power,
and to defend justice and righteousness
regardless of the cost.

Just like John. Amen.

Safiyah Fosua in THE AFRICAN WORSHIP BOOK FOR YEAR B

+ + +

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The gospel reading last Sunday was from the sixth chapter of Mark's gospel. We heard about the rejection of Jesus at Nazareth, his sending out of his disciples to proclaim repentance, cast out demons, and anoint with oil many who were sick and cure them. More tragically, we heard about the death of John the Baptist while imprisoned by King Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great.

John the Baptist was an enigma to Herod Antipas. On the one hand, Herod was intrigued by John. He enjoyed their conversations and liked to listen to him. He was also well aware of John's popularity and his reputation as a righteous and holy man, so he sought to protect him.

On the other hand, John the Baptist had repeatedly warned Herod against marrying his brother Philip's wife (*Herodias*), which greatly angered her. Out of spite, Herodias pressured Herod to kill him.

In the end, Herod found himself backed into a corner with no way out. He succumbed to his wife's pressure, ordered John's beheading, and had his head delivered to his wife on a platter.

On the second Sunday of Advent, 2023, we heard a dramatic monolog in worship presented by John the Baptizer (*played by John Centi*). We asked, "Well, this is entertaining, but what does it have to do with us?" He responded with a 2-point answer:

First: Prepare the way of the LORD!

Repent! Change the direction of your life that isn't in sync with the path to Christ. For some of you, it may be a small redirection onto the right path. Or, it may call you to radically change the entire direction of your life. In any case, put all of yourself in God's hands!

And then there's this: Begin a way of living that reflects the LORD's love for all people. Love one another!

Be concerned about those around you. Take the skills and resources that you have and make straight the path for others to reach the Kingdom, by pointing the way – just as I did – to Jesus.

It seemed so easy to take seriously John's admonition to change the direction of our lives that aren't in sync with Jesus and to be God's love to the world. Perhaps this was because there was nothing in the message about dying!

But now we're approaching the season of Lent, confronted with Mark's gospel detailing John's death, and reminded that just as John was willing to serve God, so we too, are to present ourselves as living sacrifices to God.

Dear siblings in Christ, are we *really* ready to speak truth to power, and to defend justice and righteousness *regardless of the cost*? Are we *really* willing to ask God to make us **Just like John**? That's a tough ask.

Faithfully, Pastor Ruth Jensen

TEN OTHER THINGS YOU MIGHT GIVE UP FOR LENT

March 2nd, 2017

Magrey deVega, Senior Pastor of Hyde Park UMC in Tampa, Florida

A recent online, non-scientific survey by *Christianity Today* revealed the most popular things people give up for Lent: 1) social networking, 2) chocolate, 3) Twitter, 4) alcohol, and 5) chips. I for one am giving up the use of electronic devices at the dinner table, much to the delight of my two daughters. Madelyn is giving up playing games on her smartphone, and Grace is giving up afternoon snacks. I had to convince them that giving up homework was not an appropriate Lenten discipline.

As I've thought about it, there are some deeper parts of your life that you might consider giving up for Lent, for the sake of your own spiritual maturity and personal development. In no particular order, and by no means exhaustive, here are some things I thought of that you might want to consider as part of your Lenten journey this year:

Give up the need to be right all the time.

Business author Patrick Lencioni said, "People don't need to feel like they are right, as much as they need to feel like they've been heard." Yes, claim your voice, assert your convictions, and engage the issues that matter to you. But once you've been heard, consider the possibility that you might have something to learn from someone who disagrees with you. That's often how we learn our most important lessons in life. (James 1:19)

Give up your reluctance to ask for help.

It is true that giving up something for Lent requires discipline, will, and self-mastery. But it also requires the recognition that we cannot always be self-sufficient. You are not superhuman. You do not have inexhaustible reserves. Turn to loved ones for support, seek the wise counsel of others, and don't be afraid to ask for help. (Psalm 69)

Give up your fear of failure.

Mother Theresa said, “God does not call us to be successful; God calls us to be faithful.” You may sometimes gauge your self-worth by what you have achieved and how you have succeeded. You might subconsciously depend on the affirmation of others to feel good about yourself. But your worth does not equal your work, nor are you defined by your failures. Some people live a whole lifetime before they come to realize that. Save yourself the heartache later. Learn it now. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Give up comparing yourself to others.

Forget the Joneses. They are not worth keeping up with. Find contentment in what you have, and who God has created you to be. You do not need the envious admiration of others. You need not be defined by what you do not have. While there is nothing wrong with being self-motivated and goal-oriented, don’t evaluate your life in comparison to others. It’s not worth it. (James 4:2-3)

Give up the need to have things all figured out.

Embrace mystery. Dance with your doubts. Acknowledge that you do not and cannot know it all. Resist the temptation to rationalize the irrational parts of your faith, and recognize that some of the greatest things in life are those things that cannot be explained or fully understood. Things like God’s love for you, and how God is with you even when you don’t believe it. (Romans 11:33-36)

Give up your fears of the future.

I get it. These are frightening times for many people. There is great nervousness about the way things are in the world. And I would guess that you are dealing with fears yourself. I have learned over my twenty years of parish ministry that everyone — without exception — has something that they are dealing with. We all have our fears, but we don’t need to be defined by them. For God is a God of hope. (Matthew 6:33-34)

Give up anesthetizing yourself to pain and suffering.

The long shadow of suffering is cast in many shades, like loneliness, grief, abandonment, and betrayal. None of us enjoys going through difficulties, and our instinct is often to numb ourselves from the pain in ways that are actually self-destructive: giving in to addictions, accumulating possessions, pursuing temporal pleasures, and cocooning ourselves from the rest of the world. These might anesthetize us in the short term, but they prevent us from allowing that pain to help us stretch, grow, and trust in God. (Romans 5:3-5)

Give up the need to be in control.

This one is at the heart of the season of Lent. It is a reminder that we ultimately are not in control of what happens to us. We cannot control others, and we can hardly claim to have full control of ourselves and our future. Let the Covenant Prayer of Wesley be your guide, to remind you that you are not your own; you belong to God. For we must ultimately surrender our control over to a God who has created us and claimed us from the beginning. (Matthew 16:24-25)

Give up the need to make everyone happy.

It’s not like you can, anyway. You may have a knack for understanding what others want from you, but you must also claim your own convictions and understand your limitations. Your job is not to be all things to all people and please everyone you know. God calls you to live a life of integrity, uncompromising in your commitment to Jesus Christ. For God, after all, is the only one you need to please. (Galatians 1:10)

Give up all the non-essential noise in your life.

This may be the toughest thing of all to give up, but it may be the key to a deeply moving Lenten season for you. Your life is inundated by competing voices and blaring noises from the culture around you. Pay attention to your breath. Take walks. Drive without the radio on. Set the cell phone down when you’re at the family table. Watch less television, read more newspapers and books, and look people in the eye when you talk to them. Most of all, pray to God, “Silence all voices but your own.” Turn down the volume of your life and connect to a God who knows you better than you know yourself. (Psalm 46:10)

Blessings to you on your Lenten journey!

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023/ JANUARY 2024

- ➔ Approved a hiring freeze for all Trinity and Child Care Staff through the first quarter of 2024.
- ➔ Approved the special matching fund offering of \$25,000 to be matched by the congregation.
- ➔ Elected the following Council officers:
President: Kathy Mitchell
Vice President: Peter Jacobson
Secretary: Mark Persun
Treasurer: Christopher Lloyd
- ➔ Installed New Members on Sunday, January 28.
- ➔ Approved the use of Call Multiplier for cancelling services and making announcements.
- ➔ Approved Andrea Crawford as the Congregational Representative for the Endowment Fund for a one-year term.

CHANGE YOUR CLOCK

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME begins on **Sunday, March 10**. Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night.



GROUPS MEETING



ADULT BIBLE STUDY led by Pastor Ruth meets every **Wednesday** at 12:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. Drop in for an introduction to the following Sunday's gospel text, provoking group discussions, and lots of off-the-wall humor! No experience is necessary. Use your own Bible or we will provide you with one!

TRINITY'S MEN'S GROUP meets **every Tuesday** at the Turnpike McDonald's at 9:00 a.m. All men are welcome to join us.

TRINITY'S BOOK GROUP will meet on **Thursday, February 8** at 11:30 a.m. in the Conference Room. They will continue to discuss the book, The Impossible Will Take a Little While, by Paul Rogat Loeb.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP meets **Tuesdays, February 13** and **February 27** at 1:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. All are welcome.

ASH WEDNESDAY February 14, 2024

Drive thru Ashes/Donuts/Coffee—6:30 to 10:00 a.m. on Trinity's front porch with Pastor Jensen

Worship at 7:00 p.m. with
Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion
in the Sanctuary

LENTEN ANNOUNCEMENTS



LENT BEGINS WITH ASH WEDNESDAY—

FEBRUARY 14. We are marked with the Cross of Christ forever at our baptism, but the cross with which we are marked this day reminds us of our frail humanity and our need for God's saving grace. At

Trinity, an Ash Wednesday Service in the Sanctuary will be held at 7:00 p.m. on **February 14.** Drive-Thru Ashes will be distributed at the front of the church from 6:30 to 10:00 a.m. by Pastor Ruth.

TRINITY MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

will be held in Trinity's Sanctuary **each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.** beginning **February 21** and continuing through **March 20.** Join us for Lenten Soup Suppers beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall before worship. All are welcome to come and share the communal food—no reservations are required.



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO MAKE A CROCKPOT OF SOUP

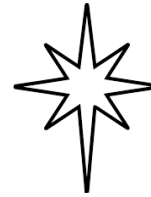
for the Wednesday evening Lenten meals, please call Trinity's Office at 445-5446. We will need one volunteer for each of

these Lenten **Wednesdays: March 13 and March 20.**

BLOOMS OF HOPE, the daffodil campaign for cancer, is taking place from now until **Thursday, February 29**, for distribution Wednesday-Friday, March 13-15. All funds raised this year will go to the *Walk of Hope Somerset Fund*, helping all local cancer patients (and their families). Call Betty Anderson (445-6698) if you have any questions. Sign up on the form in the Narthex.



SHINE THE LIGHT OF YOUR LIFE



Once you were darkness,
but now in the Lord
YOU ARE LIGHT.

**Walk as children of light,
for the fruit of the light is found
in all that is good and right and true.**

Ephesians 5:8-9

In faithful response to our congregation's current income deficit, an anonymous Trinity family has pledged to give a special, one-time offering of \$25,000 to be deposited into the general fund at the beginning of the new year. The offering has one stipulation: It must be matched by combined congregational offerings to the general fund *given in excess of regular tithes and offerings.*

The hope is that by offering members of the congregation an opportunity to participate in this special matching funds offering, more members of the congregation will

1. experience the joy of giving, and
2. **shine the light of their lives** for the sake of Jesus Christ and his ministry.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the **offering** is welcome to do so. Please write "**SHINE THE LIGHT 2024**" in the memo section of your check. Your check will be deposited in a reserve account, and you will receive 2024 tax credit. The amount of your offering will be applied towards our \$25,000 goal.

The purpose of this one-time matching funds offering to Trinity's general fund is to help our congregation begin 2024 with a renewed sense of vision, energy, and commitment to ministry, and together, to **SHINE the LIGHT of our LIVES** through regular, purposeful, and sacrificial giving as we support the financial burden of our congregation's ministry.

Beginning **FEAST OF EPIPHANY:** January 6, 2024
Ending **ASH WEDNESDAY:** February 14, 2024

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

MEMBER REMOVED BY LETTER OF TRANSFER:

January 26, 2024 Joseph Aaron Carroll removed
by Letter of Transfer to
Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran
Church; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

MEMBERS RECEIVED BY LETTER OF TRANSFER:

January 28, 2024 Joyce Farkosh received by
Letter of Transfer from St. Luke's
Evangelical Lutheran Church;
Rockwood, Pennsylvania

January 28, 2024 Dan and Maureen Friedline
received by Letter of Transfer
from St. Luke's Evangelical
Lutheran Church; Rockwood,
Pennsylvania

January 28, 2024 Eleanor Pritts received by
Letter of Transfer from St. Luke's
Evangelical Lutheran Church;
Rockwood, Pennsylvania

January 28, 2024 Dana Weimer received by
Letter of Transfer from St. Luke's
Evangelical Lutheran Church;
Rockwood, Pennsylvania

January 28, 2024 John and Nancy Webb
received by Letter of Transfer
from St. Luke's Evangelical
Lutheran Church; Rockwood,
Pennsylvania

A VIEW FROM THE LOFT

God's Wonderful World: Bird Buddy

*"I know all the birds of the air,
and all that moves in the field is mine." (Psalm 50:11)*

For Christmas this year my wife gifted me a Bird Buddy bird feeder. It has a built-in motion activated Wi-Fi camera that connects to a smartphone and takes both photos and videos of birds as they eat from the feeder and sends them to the smartphone. I have always loved watching birds, and this has proven a perfect gift for me. One thing I especially love is that it has audio as well as video so that I can hear the birds as they tweet, sing, and chomp through the birdseeds.

The Bird Buddy app provides some biological details about each bird species and even tells you a bit about their songs. I love learning about the different songs each type of bird sings and the different situations they choose to sing different songs for. It turns out that like humans, birds choose different songs based on their mood and based on the situation they are in. In the videos my Bird Buddy has captured thus far, I've seen mated pairs of cardinals take turns at the feeder, tweeting and singing at each other as they eat. I've seen blue jay and tufted titmouse select seeds to take to their nests to hoard for later. I've seen little house finches share the bird feeder platform with each other so that several can eat at the same time. I've seen red-bellied woodpeckers squeeze onto the feeder and carefully select a nut of choice. I've seen song sparrows sing and tweet as they munch. Over the winter storms we recently had, my favorite bird to watch has become the Dark-eyed Junco, a kind of bird I had never even heard of before, but who have apparently been my longtime neighbors, living in my trees and eating my birdseed for some time.

The Bird Buddy app has this to say about Dark-Eyed Junco, "The cold doesn't bother me, in fact, I love it! Did you know that dark-eyed juncos grow their own jackets to protect them from the snow? In winter, their coat can be up to 30%

heavier! Sounds like an awesome superpower to have in winter, right? They are here for a good time and a long time and can live to be 11 years old. For reference, the average lifespan of a bird that survives being a fledging is about three years.”

During our weeks of blizzards and extreme wind chill, I was so blessed to watch these amazing creatures happily eat birdseed and tweet in front of my camera. Birds have a special place in the Bible and in my heart. They are nature’s musicians and always described as special to God throughout the Bible, and yet we are told by Christ that we are more precious than many birds!



The more I study and learn of biological science the surer I am that nature and science are powerful witnesses to God’s wonderful creation and certainly studying them is not a threat to scripture. I think science brings us closer to God, rather than being in opposition to God. For many years and even to this day, some Christians have felt threatened by science and that exploring it further can be a detriment to faith, but I couldn’t disagree more. Did you know Cardinals sing 28 different types of songs? Maybe a few of them are hymns of praise?

One of the things I appreciate so deeply about ELCA Lutheran worship is that we almost always pray for the environment, nature, and the beautiful creatures, like birds, that God has blessed the earth with. Let’s keep appreciating them!

-Nicholas Carroll

Director of Music/Media

CONGRATULATIONS!

TRINITY MEMBERS HAVING SIGNIFICANT BIRTHDAYS (80 YEARS AND OLDER)

Joan Wheeler—February 8

Tomalee Holt—February 21

Robert Carouse—March 19

Barbara Swanson—March 19

Robert Thomas—March 23

Lana Miller—March 25

Dawn Felix—April 3

Beverly Benford—April 25

Ellsworth Flyte—April 26

Marilyn Carouse—April 29

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOMERSET FOOD PANTRY is in need of plastic grocery bags. If you have these items, please drop them off at Trinity's Office.

2024 ELCA DEVOTIONALS FOR LENT, gathered into one are available in the Narthex, in the Chapel kiosk, and in Trinity's Office. Please pick up a copy for your Lenten home devotions.

PERSONAL GIVING STATEMENTS FOR 2023 were mailed on **Monday, January 29**. Please call Ann at Trinity's Office with any questions you may have 445-5446.

TRINITY'S COMMITTEES are being formed for 2024. Every member is invited and encouraged to join a committee and/or attend a meeting during the year. Share your talents with us in all of our various ministries! To volunteer, please call Trinity's Office at 445-5446.



RECYCLING INK CARTRIDGES Trinity recycles only the smaller personal cartridges you would use at home in your printers preferably **Hewlett Packard (HP)** and **Canon** ink jet cartridges in black or color. They do not need to be boxed to be recycled. We appreciate all of you bringing in your home ink cartridges to recycle! A plastic container to put them in is located inside the center doors of the Educational Building, to the right.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We welcomed on January 28, 2024, the following sisters and brothers in Christ who came to us from St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Rockwood:





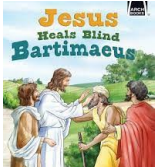




Joyce Farkosh *10:00 a.m. service*
 537 West Fairview Street, Somerset PA 15501
 Phone home (814) 445-2330
 Phone mobile (814) 289-6294
 Birthday 7/24/45
 Widowed (James) 1/30/2022

Dan and Mo (Maureen) Friedline *8:00 a.m. service*
 833 Market Street, Rockwood, PA 15557
 Phone home (814) 926-3010
 Maureen mobile (814) 279-8137
 Dan mobile (814) 442-2751
 Email dfriedline833@comcast
 Dan Birthday 11/12/1956
 Mo Birthday 9/28/1956
 Anniversary 10/15/1988

Eleanor Pritts *Associate member*
 910 Broadway Street, Rockwood, PA 15557
 Phone home (814) 926-3646
 Birthday 1/5/1941
 Mother of Dana Weimer

Dana (Den) Weimer *10:00 a.m. service*
 929 Broadway Street, Rockwood, PA 15557
 Phone mobile (814) 442-7296
 Email danarweimer@gmail.com
 Birthday 11/16/60
 Anniversary 7/16/88

John and Nancy Webb *10:00 a.m. service*
 112 Swallow Lane, Rockwood PA 15557
 Mobile (814) 233-3304 (Nancy)
 Email webbnancy48@gmail.com
 John Birthday 11/8/1938
 Nancy Birthday 5/12/41

Preparing our Hearts and Minds for Worship		
Sunday, February 11 Transfiguration of our Lord		Psalm 27:1-4 Mark 8:27--9:8 <i>Peter's confession, passion prediction, bearing the cross, Transfiguration.</i>
 ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14 Psalm 32:1-5; Mark 9:30-37 <i>Passion prediction, debate about who is the greatest, call to become a servant.</i> 		
Sunday, February 18 First Sunday in Lent		Psalm 19:7-10 Mark 10:17-31 <i>Rich man is called to sell all he has and follow Jesus.</i>
February 25 Second Sunday in Lent		Psalm 34:11-14 Mark 10:32-52 <i>Passion prediction, Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, heals blind Bartimaeus.</i>
March 3 Third Sunday in Lent		Psalm 86:3-13 Mark 12:1-12 [13-17] <i>Parable of the wicked tenants; paying taxes to Caesar.</i>
March 10 Fourth Sunday in Lent		Psalm 89:1-4 Mark 12:28-44 <i>Great commandment, scribes seek honor, a poor widow gives all she has.</i>
March 17 Fifth Sunday in Lent		Psalm 102:12-17 Mark 13:1-8, 24-37 <i>The end of the age; call to be watchful.</i>
March 24 Palm/Passion Sunday		Psalm 118:25-29 Mark 11:1-11 Triumphal entry. Mark 14:3-9 Woman anoints Jesus at Bethany.

S.A.M. LENTEN SERVICES

SOMERSET AREA MINISTERIUM (S.A.M.) COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES will be held at noon at Somerset First Church **each Wednesday in Lent**, starting Ash Wednesday, **February 14** through March 20. There will be a service on Wednesday in Holy Week (March 27) and one on Good Friday (March 29). Music begins at 11:30 a.m. before the service. The service itself runs from noon to 12:30 p.m. A meal will be provided after each service except Good Friday. Services will also be streamed LIVE on Somerset First Church Facebook page.



DONATE ONLINE

ONLINE GIVING DONATIONS

can be made by going to our website at www.trinitysomersest.org and clicking on "Give" to make a donation. Search for Tayman Avenue to donate to Trinity.



Under Note/Memo you can designate your gift for a special purpose if desired or just donate to the General Fund (our greatest need).

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Kayla Carroll
- 3 William J. McNelly
- 7 Randy Hoover
- Joseph Kennick, Jr.
- Glenn E. Miller, Jr.
- Henry Wheeler
- 8 Joan Wheeler
- 14 Linda Gould
- 19 Lori Bence
- Julie Mitchell
- Madisyn Mostoller
- 20 Eriksen Echtler
- Danielle Yeago
- 21 Senda Harvey
- Tomalee Holt
- 22 Sally Maranowski
- 25 Rebecca Hoffman



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
FEBRUARY 2024			
4 5th Sunday after Epiphany 8:00a Worship W/ Communion (Sanctuary) 8:45a SS (EB/FH) 10:00a Worship W/Com- munion Sanct) 5:00p Worship Service W/ Communion/Healing 5:45p (Chapel)	5	6 9:00a-10:00a Men's Group (McDonald's Turnpike)	7 8:00a-10:45a 12:30p-2:00p Study (Conference R
11 Transfiguration of Our Lord 8:00a Worship W/ Communion (Sanctuary) 8:45a SS (EB/FH) 10:00a Worship W/ Communion (Sanct) 5:00p Worship Service W/ Communion/Healing 5:45p (Chapel)	12 6:00p-7:30p Property Committee (Conference Room)	13 9:00a-10:00a Men's Group (McDonald's Turnpike) 1:00p-2:30p Women's Fellowship (Conference Room)	14 Ash W 6:30a-10:00a Wednesday D Ashes (Portico 8:00a-10:45a 12:00p-12:30p Ash Wednesd vice/Lunch (S First Church) 12:30p-2:00p Study (Conf R 7:00p-8:00p Wednesday W w/Ashes (San
18 1st Sunday in Lent 8:00a Worship W/ Communion (Sanct) 8:45a SS (EB/FH) 10:00a Worship W/ Communion (Sanct) 11:15a TLC Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 11:30a-Wittenberg Bells 5:00p Worship Service W/ Communion Healing 5:45p (Chapel)	19 Presidents' Day No School	20 9:00a-10:00a Men's Group (McDonald's Turnpike) 5:00p-6:30p Child Care Parents/Finance Meet- ing (Fellowship Hall)	21 8:00a-10:45a 12:00p-12:45p Midweek Len Serv/Lunch (S First Church) 12:30p-2:00p Study (Conf R 6:00p-7:00p Soup Supper 7:00p-8:00p Serv (Sanct)
25 2nd Sunday in Lent 8:00a Worship W/Comm (Sanct) 8:45a SS (EB/FH) 10:00a Worship W/ Comm/TLC Band (Sanct) 11:15a TLC Choir Rehearsal (Sanct) 11:30 Wittenberg Bells 5:00pWorship Service W/ Communion/ Healing 5:45p (Chapel)	26	27 9:00a-10:00a Men's Group (McDonald's Turnpike) 1:00p-2:30p Women's Fellowship (Conference Room)	28 8:00a-10:45a 12:00p-12:45p Midweek Len Serv/Lunch (S First Church) 12:30p-2:00p Study (Conf R 6:00p-7:00p Soup Supper 7:00p-8:00p Serv (Sanct)

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	1 10:00a-10:30a Child Care (Chapel)	2	3
a FP o Bible (Room)	8 10:00a-10:30a Child Care (Chapel) 11:30a-1:00p Book Group/Bring Your Lunch/Impossible Book (Conference Room) 1:00p-2:00p Worship Committee (Conf Room)	9	10
ednesday Valentine's Day a Ash Drive-Thru) a FP Op SAM ay Ser- Somerset	15 8:15a Deadline: Stromboli's/Pizzas/Cinn Rolls (TLC Office) 10:00a-10:30a Child Care (Chapel) 6:00p-7:30p Finance Committee (Conference Room)	16	17
o Bible (oom) Ash Worship Sanctuary)			
a FP 5p SAM ten Som	22 10:00a-10:30a Child Care (Chapel) 6:00p-8:00p Council (Fellowship Hall)	23 7:30a-11:00a Child Care Fundraiser: Stromboli's/Pizzas/Cinn Rolls Delivered at 7:30/Pick Up 8:30 A.M. (Parlor)	24
o Bible (oom) Lenten (F Hall) Lenten			
a FP 5p SAM ten Som	29 10:00a-10:30a Child Care (Chapel)		
o Bible (oom) Lenten (F Hall) Lenten			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
MARCH 2024			
3 3rd Sunday in Lent 8:00a Worship W/ Communion (Sanctuary) 8:45a SS (EB/FH) 10:00a Worship W/ Communion (Sanctuary) 11:15a TLC Choir 11:30a Wittenberg Bells 5:00p Worship Service W/Communion/ Healing 5:45p (Chapel)	4	5 9:00a Men's Group (McDonald's Turnpike)	6 8:00a FP 12:00p SAM Mi Lenten Service/ (Som First Chur 12:30p Bible St (Conference Ro 6:00p Lenten S per (Fellowship 7:00p Evening L Service (Sanctu
10 Daylight Saving Time 4th Sunday in Lent 8:00a Worship W/ Communion (Sanctuary) 8:45a SS (EB/FH) 10:00a Worship W/ Communion (Sanctuary) 11:15a TLC Choir 11:30a Wittenberg Bells 5:00p Worship Service W/Communion Healing 5:45p (Chapel)	11 6:00p Property Commit-tee (Conference Room)	12 9:00a Men's Group (McDonald's Turnpike) 1:00p Women's Fellow-ship (Conference Room)	13 8:00a FP 12:00p SAM Mi Lenten Service/ (Som First Chur 12:30p Bible St (Conference Ro 6:00p Lenten S per (Fellowship 7:00p Evening L Service (Sanctu
17 5th Sunday in Lent 8:00a Worship W/ Communion (Sanctuary) 8:45a SS (EB/FH) 10:00a Worship W/ Communion (Sanctuary) 11:15a TLC Choir 11:30a Wittenberg Bells 5:00p Worship Service W/Communion Healing 5:45p (Chapel)	18	19 8:15a Deadline: Lilies/Special Gifts (Trinity's Office) 9:00a Men's Group (McDonald's Turnpike)	20 8:00a FP 12:00p SAM Mi Lenten Service/ (Som First Chur 12:30p Bible St (Conference Ro 6:00p Lenten S per (Fellowship 7:00p Evening L Service (Sanctu
24 Palm Sunday 8:00a Worship W/ Communion (Sanctuary) 8:45a SS (EB/FH) 10:00a Worship W/ Communion (Sanctuary) 11:15a TLC Choir 11:30a Wittenberg Bells 5:00p Comm Wors (Chpl)	25	26 8:15a Deadline: Easter Breakfast (Trinity's Of-fice) 9:00a Men's Group (McDonald's Turnpike) 1:00p Women's Fellow-ship (Conference Room)	27 No School 8:00a FP 12:00p SAM Mi Holy Week Servi Lunch (Somerset First 12:30p Bible St (Conference Ro
31 8:00a Easter Sunrise Serv W/Comm (Sanc) 8:45a Easter Breakfast (Fellowship Hall) 10:00a Worship W/Communion (Sanctuary) 5:00p Worship W/Communion and Healing (Chapel)			

We continue into this New Year with great excitement. My word of the year is "fun." We are finding new ways to engage and play with our kids here. We find new activities to introduce to them and allow them to explore the world around us. The staff here are enjoying time spent with the kids in play and getting to show them how we can all play together forward to a fun year with everyone.



The Finance Committee has set up a Parents' meeting for all the families in our Child Care program. The Committee plays a crucial role in ensuring the financial stability and success of our program and Trinity Lutheran Congregation continues to help support us. I look forward to allowing the parents to share their concerns, ask some questions, and provide insight into their lives. I look forward to having Committee members and parents come together to help better our program and move us forward into many more years ahead.

We continue to work on fundraising ideas. Our next fundraiser will be Claysburg Pizza. These items will be delivered Friday, February 23 for pick up after 8:30 a.m. Thank you to all of those who order.

I would love to continue to come up with more fundraising ideas, and I am happy to hear any suggestions. If anyone would be willing to help volunteer to make food, I have lots of ideas that would take several volunteers to make happen. Please reach out to me if you are interested in helping at (814) 445-5436.

We continue to pride ourselves on our dedicated and wonderful staff we have here at Trinity Lutheran Child Care

and Learning Center. We now have three staff members, Stacey, Amber, and Michelle who have worked here over ten years. Several other members have been here five years plus, which I think is amazing. Part of the charm of our program is that we can provide such consistent care. We have the same teachers in the classrooms all year long and because of that children are able to develop safe and secure attachments. Consistent care is of utmost importance for the healthy development of children. At Trinity, we recognize this importance and prioritize consistent care, that creates an environment that nurtures the well-being and potential of all our children. I am so grateful for all of the amazing staff that continues to work day after day to make this a positive experience for every kid that walks through our doors.

If you would ever want to learn more about what we are doing at the Child Care, please reach out to me to discuss further.

Jody Jurgevich, Director
Trinity Lutheran Child Care and Learning Center

Phone: (814)445-5436
Email: trinitylutheranchildcare@gmail.com



CHILD CARE FUNDRAISER: Claysburg Pizza, Stromboli, and Cinnamon rolls. Order forms are in the Narthex, Chapel, Fellowship Hall, and Trinity's Office. Deadline to order is **Thursday, February 15**. These items will be delivered Friday, February 23 for pick up after 8:30 a.m. in the Parlor.

CHILD CARE FUN





Come to the Trinity Lutheran Church FIRST BIENNIAL MINISTRY PLANNING RETREAT!

Where have we been? What has God done for us?
What are our needs? What is God doing with us?
Where is God calling us to speak the name of Jesus?

Who All YOUTH and ADULTS of Trinity ...
can we get 40 people? 60?!?

What A 5-hour, hands-on work session
complete with snacks and lunch

When **Saturday, March 16** from 9am to 2pm

Where Somerset Junior High School
Gym and Cafeteria

Leader Pastor Ruth and guests

Outcome A ministry plan to involve us, invigorate
us, and enable us to joyfully enter
together into God's future for us

What to Bring A Bible, if you have one. Dress is
comfortable and casual. Continental
breakfast, lunch, and beverages will be
provided.

See next page for registration form ➔ ➔ ➔

Registration deadline is **Sunday, March 10**. This is an IMPORTANT MILESTONE in the life of Trinity.

We are praying for 40+ participants. EVERYONE is needed.

Please PRAY for God's presence and power at this event.

Please plan to PARTICIPATE in this 5-hour retreat.

TRINITY'S FIRST BIENNIAL MINISTRY PLANNING RETREAT REGISTRATION

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024 9AM – 2PM

AT SOMERSET JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL GYM AND CAFETERIA

Please register by Sunday, March 10

Name _____

Name _____

Phone _____

Email (if you have it) _____

Special needs, concerns, or diet restrictions _____



BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH

1	Angela Miller	20	Beth Mayer
2	P. Michael Jacobson		Cynthia Fisher
	Sadie Snyder		Emily Miller
5	Emma Fanale		Jacob Miller
	Heather Fanale	22	Susan Centi
6	Patricia Widmann	23	Delaney Pizer
7	Timothy Bence		Robert Thomas
	Greta Carroll	24	Peyton Gibson
11	Travis Anderson	25	Lana Miller
	J. Franklin Kyle, Sr.		Kelley Thompson
14	Ann Voytish	27	Ann Persun
	Jack Illar	28	Rebecca Kennick
	Larry Mazer	29	Danielle Leslie
15	John Barndt	30	Gordon Centi
	Lillian Mostoller		Rebecca Minnich
16	Elwood Echtler		
17	Kelly Emswiler		
	Gregory Widmann		
	Pamela George		
	Graham Crawford		
19	Robert Carouse		
	Barbara Swanson		
	Pastor Ruth Kocha Jensen		

Happy Birthday!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Kelsey Pletcher | 14 Alaina Thompson |
| Vincent Morocco | Teagan Pletcher |
| 2 Reese Demchak | 15 Mia Gibson |
| Wayne Walker | 16 Natalie Anderson |
| 3 Benjamin Emswiler | Beth Fetterolf |
| Dawn Felix | 17 Max Thompson |
| 4 Misty Demchak | 20 Sydnay Bowersox |
| Haddie Lepley | 22 Terri Snyder |
| Judith Klink | Maddox Sanner |
| Isaac Richter | 25 Beverly Benford |
| Randell Urban | 26 Ellsworth Flyte |
| 5 Samuel Sanner | 27 Seth Shaffer |
| Brooks Lehman | 28 George Kaufman |
| Molly Emswiler | 29 Marilyn Carouse |
| 6 Chad Schrock | Gayle Morocco |
| 7 Melanie Miller | 30 Troy Miller |
| Reese Sanner | Sandra Griffith |
| 8 Robert Troy | |
| Timothy Albright | |



Order Form for Easter Lilies 2024



In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Presented by _____

Cost of each plant is \$18.00

Lilies will grace our Chancel at Easter.

_____ Number of Plants at \$18.00 each \$_____

Please return your order and money to:
Trinity Lutheran Church
918 Tayman Avenue
Somerset, PA 15501

Checks should be made payable to:
Trinity Lutheran Church

Deadline for orders is: Tuesday, March 19

Remember Our Shut-Ins:

Give to Homebound

() yes () no

I Will Pick Up My Plant

() yes () no



2024 SPECIAL EASTER GIFTS

*This year, in addition to or in lieu of Lilies,
our special gifts will go to:*

_____ *Good Samaritan Fund*

This fund will be for people in need of food, shelter, utilities, medical bills, burial needs, etc. The amount of money in the fund will be knowledge available to congregants. Congregants and community members in need may confidentially be provided with help from this fund at the discretion of the pastor and/or Council.

Amount \$ _____ Envelope # _____

Please make checks payable to:
Trinity Lutheran Church
918 Tayman Avenue
Somerset, PA 15501

Deadline: Tuesday, March 19

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Presented by _____

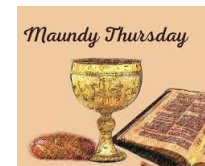
2024 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



Palm/Passion Sunday (March 24)

Palm Procession
8:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary
10:00 a.m. begins in the Fellowship Hall
for Blessing of the Palms
5:00 p.m. in the Chapel with Healing at 5:45 p.m.

Maundy Thursday (March 28) with
the Sacrament of Holy Communion
7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

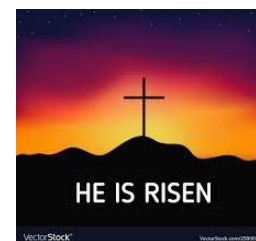


Good Friday (March 29)
Tenebrae Service
7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Vigil of Easter - (Saturday, March 30)
7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary with the Sacrament
of Holy Communion.
We will celebrate our Baptism.

Easter Sunday (March 31)
8:00 and 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary
5:00 p.m. in the Chapel with Healing at 5:45 p.m.
Return of Alleluias!

The Festival of the Resurrection of
our Lord continues with the Sacrament of Holy Communion.
Come celebrate the Joy of our
Lord's **RESURRECTION!**



ENSEMBLE SCHEDULES

TLC CHOIR will begin rehearsing at 11:15 a.m. on **Sunday, February 18**. Rehearsals continue each Sunday.

WITTENBERG BELLS begin rehearsals on **Sunday, February 18** at 11:30 a.m. in the Choir Loft. Rehearsals will continue each Sunday.

If you would like to join either of these ensembles, please call Nicholas Carroll, our Director of Music, at (814) 233-2093. We look forward to having this special music in worship.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
TUESDAY - APRIL 9, 2024

EASTER BREAKFAST

EASTER BREAKFAST will be held at 8:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, March 31**. The menu will be breakfast casseroles, sausage, donuts, juice, coffee, tea, and milk. If you can come and/or volunteer to help, please call Trinity's Office (445-5446) to let us know how many will attend, how you can volunteer, or fill out the form below and return it to Trinity's Office by **Tuesday, March 26**.

✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕

EASTER BREAKFAST RESERVATIONS

Name: _____

Phone: _____

- ___ I will provide a Breakfast Casserole and bring it hot.
- ___ I will help set the tables.
- ___ I will help serve the meal.
- ___ I will help clean up after the breakfast.
- ___ I will warm up breakfast casseroles.
- ___ I will help with the sausage.

If you are able to help in any way, please return this form to Trinity's Office or call (445-5446) to volunteer your help.

SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL NOT BE HELD FOR ADULTS OR CHILDREN ON EASTER SUNDAY TO ALLOW EVERYONE TO COME TO THE EASTER BREAKFAST!

TRINITY'S OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED ON
EASTER MONDAY, APRIL 1

Ash Wednesday 2024



When you go forward during worship to receive the cross of ash on your forehead, the cross that you received when you were baptized is being re-traced. We can't see that first cross on a daily basis, but today, with the help of ashes, we can see that cross. We can see the place where the pastor traced a cross and said, "You have been sealed with the promised Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever."

And forever, means forever. There is nothing that can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus. This ashen cross, though it is a reminder of our earthly mortality, also is a reminder of our eternal freedom in Christ.

So, yes, child of God, you are dust and to dust you shall return. But remember this: it is from dust and the very breath of God that you were created out of divine love.

A divine love which created us from dust and breath.
A divine love to which we will return after our last breath when again we are dust.

Our journey through Lent is a thousand opportunities to return to God with all our heart; returning again to the one thing that will never change: God's love for us.

Friends, when you get home and want to wash off these ashes, remember again that thanks be to God, you are loved.

Blessed Lent,

The Staff of the Office of the Bishop

JUST FOR FUN

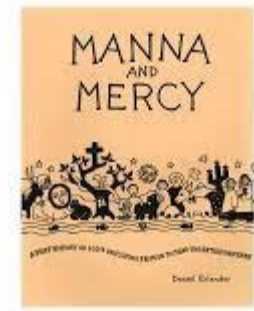


ONLINE LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Join Pastors Nathan Pile and Kevin Shock for a study of the book, Manna and Mercy by Daniel Erlander on **Tuesdays** at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom during Lent. The Zoom link will be on the home page at www.sequanota.com.

Manna and Mercy is a book about God--more specifically, the God of the Bible who is present and active in human history and in our lives today. Through his distinctive illustrations and hand-lettered text, Erlander conveys the continuity of God's covenant of life, justice, and inclusion to all people and all of creation.

The Zoom dates for this Lenten Bible Study are: Tuesdays, February 20, February 27, March 5, March 12, March 19, and March 26.



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
918 Tayman Avenue
Somerset, PA 15501
(Address Service Requested)

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Somerset, Pennsylvania
Permit No. 149

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE AT 7:00 P.M.
ON FEBRUARY 14 IN THE SANCTUARY.
DRIVE-THRU ASHES (SEE PAGE 9)**

**WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN SERVICES
BEGIN FEBRUARY 21 IN THE SANCTUARY
AT 7:00 P.M. LENTEN SOUP SUPPER AT
6:00 P.M. IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL EVERY
LENTEN WEDNESDAY.**

LENTEN 2024