



Midweek Services using Holden Evening Prayer will be held on **Thursdays** in March at 7:00 pm **in-person only** (no livestreaming). The themes are as follows:

- March 2 Look to your roots and how you were taught. God is with us.
- March 9 The Lord is mighty. The people test Him, and He saves us.
- March 16 Do not sin, follow the Lord and his commandments.
- March 23 God has given us His Word, let it live in you.
- March 30 God has promised good things for His people. Trust Him.

The service will be preceded by a Soup and Bread Supper at 6:00 pm. Sign up here (or call the Church Office) to attend, bring soup, or bring bread:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050e4caba82f4-lenten#/>

Holy Week

Services will be in-person and livestreamed.

Palm Sunday | April 2 | 9:30 am

We remember Jesus' triumphant ride in Jerusalem and his being taken as prisoner by the Roman authorities.

Maundy Thursday | April 6 | 7:30 pm

Good Friday | April 7 | 7:30 pm

On Maundy Thursday we will hear the call by Jesus to serve another and celebrate the Last Supper. This service includes communion, stripping the altar, and hand washing.

On Good Friday we mourn the death of Christ upon the Cross. Our service will focus on the last words of Jesus. This is a somber service.

The Resurrection of our Lord

Easter Sunday | April 9 | 9:30 am

Celebrate and worship the Risen Christ with us during this festival worship service. There will be an Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt, details forthcoming, following the service.

It is good to be with you, in Christ!

In our Ash Wednesday texts the prophet Joel invited us to “return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.” This is a loving invitation for us as individuals and more importantly, for us as a community of faith. We easily become distracted with so many tasks, needs and commitments vying for our attention. The ego gets in our way as we sometimes identify with our own needs and wants.

Our Ash Wednesday invitation to a Holy Lent reminded us that sin separates us from God, our neighbors and creation, and then provides us with traditional tools to refocus our lives: “I invite you, therefore to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love.” These are not meant to be ways of earning salvation, or the latest self-help ideas, but rather means of again remembering and relaxing into God’s love in Christ.

The ELCA Young Adults invited us to choose a Lenten discipline, perhaps giving up single use plastics, as “a spiritual practice that is accessible and deepens our relationship with God and all creation. We are beginning to see and act more holistically, realizing that our spiritual health and well-being are indeed tied in with that of all creation. We are invited to closer relationship with Jesus, dropping those things that get in the way.

I’m blessed to walk with you during these weeks of Lent and weeks of many transitions at Trinity Lutheran. I pray that we might take this time to grow closer to each other, to God’s good but damaged creation, and to Christ Jesus, who is the way, truth and life.

Lenten Blessings!

Pastor Paul



Notes from the Council Retreat

On January 28, the Congregation Council spent the day with coach Michelle S. to review transition tasks and envision progress on goals previously identified.

In the morning, we took stock of Trinity's current blessings and challenges. Among the challenges, a common thread was administration and coordination. Volunteer leaders were confident in their respective ministries but need administrative support and coordination. We also heard a report from Margaret F. on the work of the Call Committee.

In the afternoon, we broke into four groups to imagine how to move forward on goals. These goals (in no particular order) were based on last year's congregational assessment and listening groups.

1. Community Service

Social Ministry aims to focus on no more than three organizations in order to achieve greater continuity. To facilitate these selections, one suggestion was to pursue activities like field trips and guest speakers, which will enable deeper understanding of community needs and opportunities.

2. Lifelong Learning & Faith Formation

This group found that individuals' faith formation occurs through many channels, including adult forum, sermons, reading the bible, community activities, and conversations. For the children, we will gather family input on new ways to engage children. For adults, we thought about organizing more conversations around faith and other topics.

3. Worship & Music

We determined that there are ways to plan ahead even while we are still to call a permanent pastor or hire a music director. Ideas for worship include: hiring a vocalist to round out the choir (we have welcomed a soprano, Maggie F-L); designating an online greeter (Margo W has volunteered); rotating liturgical settings; and yes, seeing the gospel preached.

4. Friendly Church

We talked about what it means to be a "friendlier" church. In a friendly church, we will be friendly to each other, friendly to visitors, open to other people's ideas, and respectful toward all. Ideas include helping visitors

find their way around as well as training all of us on how to be hospitable.

Several action steps emerged from the retreat:

- Hire an administrator/coordinator
- Start now on longer-term arrangements for interim clergy and musicians
- Enable volunteers' access to required keys and accounts
- Update communications & the website
- The Call Committee will consult with coach Michelle S. on completing the Mission Site Profile

Please bring your thoughts and questions about Trinity's transition and vision to any member of the Council: Mary B, Carol B, Cathy C, Greg F, Valerie M, Nancy N, Len S, Fred S, Leslie S, and Kim B, President.



Monthly Food Collection on March 18, 2023, 9-noon

Thanks to the many congregation members who continue to support our monthly food drives to support Bethesda Help. We are also pleased that each month we welcome donations from members of the neighborhood. Each month we drop off between 300-500 pounds of food and 10-20 gift cards. Bethesda Help is very appreciative and recognizes Trinity each month in the BH newsletter.

Food insecurity is still very real in Montgomery County. The Social Ministry team shares the following information about the impact BH is making. In 2022 BH saw a 137% increase in the food deliveries since January 2020.

Food Pantry News

Thanks to you, in December 2022, Bethesda Help:



...delivered 6,446 lbs. of food

...made 218 food deliveries

...delivered 672 bags of food

...delivered 224 snack bags

...delivered 584 gift cards

...served 423 adults

...and served 234 children

Passages and Milestones

March Birthdays:

1	Lineth Si	18	Kathy H
4	Logan D	20	Ann K
9	Karen W	25	Connor D
12	Colin G	29	Theodore R
	Vera N	31	Evie H

March Baptismal Anniversaries:

5	Marjorie W	12	Benjamin N
6	David C	14	Torsten D
	Nancy N	23	Timothy F
9	Nancy J		

SAVE THE DATES!

Soup Suppers & Evening Prayer | Thursdays in March
Men's Group | March 8
Change to Daylight Saving Time | March 11
Reverse Yard Sale & Food Drive | March 18
Blood Drive | April 18



Easter Flowers | Please order by Sun April 2

It is time to order flowers to decorate the sanctuary for Easter services! If you wish to order, please fill out the following form and include it with your payment.

Note: Prices have not been set as of March 1; please contact the Office at 301-881-7275 after March 15 or read your weekly Tidings for updates.

____ Easter lilies @ \$XX each (double stem)

____ Blue Hydrangeas @ \$XX each

____ Pink Hydrangeas @ \$XX each

Please check if you would like to:

____ donate ____ pick-up

Easter flowers are given to the glory of God

By _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Please make your check payable to Trinity Lutheran Church and indicate "Easter Flowers" in the memo line. You may put your check and order form together in the Sunday offering plate or mail them to Trinity.

BENEVOLENCES 2023

Trinity's Lenten Benevolence Offerings will go to Lutheran Disaster Response this year. Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing, and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. We will focus on domestic relief. There are many immediate needs here. Visit the ELCA Disaster Response webpage (<https://elca.org/disaster>) to learn more about how you can help.

BLOOD DRIVE

Giving Back: Trinity Lutheran achieves Premier Blood Partner status

Given our efforts over the last 18 months, Trinity Lutheran Church has been recognized by the American Red Cross as one of its Premier Blood Partners for 2023! To date 155 donors have participated and we have collected about 30 units each drive. Trinity is proud to support the Red Cross' humanitarian mission to help ensure there is lifesaving blood available to patients in need. Help give the gift of life by donating at Trinity's next blood drive on April 18, 2023 from 1-6 pm; the sign up is now open on the American Red Cross' website.

In recent months, many long standing donor restrictions have been lifted. Please check the ARC website for updated donor eligibility requirements.

This is a community drive; all are welcome; donors of all blood types are needed. Please help us get the word out in the community... invite a friend, add to a list serve, post an announcement!

If you have questions, please contact Margaret Fitzwilliam at gmfitzwm85@gmail.com

Trinity Reverse Yard Sale to Benefit A Wider Circle!

We will be collecting smaller, gently used household items, clothes, and toys in the Trinity parking lot on March 18th to donate to A Wider Circle. Their mission is to end poverty using a holistic approach to integrate on-the-ground services for the creation of stable homes, workforce development, and neighborhood revitalization. We will sort and transport your donated items to A Wider Circle where the items will be given to help people in need. If you have items to donate, please bring them to Trinity on March 18th from 9am - 12pm. Any questions? Please contact Henry C.

Packing the Pantry at Bon House

Luther Place Memorial Church established the Lutheran Volunteer Corps (LVC) in 1979 in order to create one-year service opportunities for recent college grads. Each year since 1979, the program has recruited individuals who are committed to living simply and sustainably in intentional community while serving the cause of peace with justice. This year LVC is operating Bonhoeffer (Bon) House (located downtown on 1st Street, NW), as well as houses in Baltimore and Minneapolis/St. Paul.



To support this program, Trinity's Social Ministry Committee has used part of its annual budget to "pack the pantry" for the nine volunteers living in Bon House. These individuals have committed to working for a year at local non-profits such as the Capital Area Immigrant's Rights Coalition, the Community of Hope, and the Government Accountability Project, while living on a very modest LVC stipend. To welcome these volunteers as they arrived, and again last week as the volunteers started the second half of their service year, Trinity members delivered food and other supplies designed to supplement their basic monthly stipends. (The LVC Executive Director, the National Partnership and Program Director and the volunteers themselves have expressed their enthusiastic appreciation for these gifts.)

If you would like to learn more about LVC, please come to Trinity's Adult Forum on March 12, when we will have an LVC representative as a guest speaker.

Handbell News

Trinity's handbell choir has been busy rehearsing music for the annual handbell festival in Ocean City, MD, which they will be attending on March 17 and 18. One of the pieces (Grazioso) was presented in church a few weeks ago and you'll be hearing the other three festival pieces in the coming months.



What do we do at the festival? We will be ringing in a massed choir of 250-350 ringers under the direction of David Harris, conductor of The Raleigh Ringers, and attending classes relating to music, coordination, rhythm, and handbell techniques. The festival weekend is also a fabulous bonding time for our choir members.

At the close of the festival on March 18, there will be two concerts, which are free and open to the public. The Bronze (advanced) concert is at 3:40 to 4:00 PM and the massed choir concert is at 5:00 - 5:30 PM. Both are held

in the Ocean City Convention Center. Come to enjoy a weekend at the beach and enjoy the incredible sound of many handbell choirs ringing together! You will want to arrive early as we get a full-house audience.

Prayer Strip Lenten Prayer Station



This prayer station will be next to the baptismal font throughout Lent. Everyone, children and youth included, is invited to take a strip of fabric and use the provided markers to write a prayer concern on the fabric. It can be a prayer for yourself, someone you love, a situation in our community or world. You can simply

write a name or word, or you can be more specific, naming an illness or need. You do not need to sign your name; that is totally optional. Put one prayer concern on a strip. You are welcome to offer up more than one using additional strips and you can add strips throughout Lent.

After you have written your prayer concern, hang the strip of fabric on the cross evenly so it doesn't fall off.

You are then invited to take a prayer strip with you and hold it as you pray for that concern. You are encouraged to take it with you, focusing on the one concern throughout Lent, or you may switch it with another prayer strip next time you come, every week if you wish.

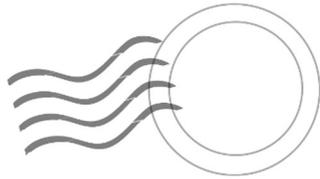
Update from the Call Committee

As reported in January, the Call Committee "jumped right in" and has been meeting weekly. We have reviewed prior documents, survey information, met with various folks in preparation of completing the Mission Site Profile (MSP). We are targeting completion of a draft MSP to share with the Synod by mid to late March. Based on Synod comments, we will finalize the MSP and it will be posted on the Synod website. With this information, the Synod will provide the Call Committee with a slate of candidates. The presentation of the slate of candidates can take from 2 to 8 weeks. Once the slate is presented, the Call Committee will undertake a very structured interview process.

The Call Committee truly appreciated the prayers of the Congregation during the Stephen Ministry-led prayer event. Please continue to hold us in prayer.

Anchored in Christ,
The Call Committee

From the Trinity Mailbag



From Solutions in Hometown Connections:

On behalf of the entire team, we want to express our heartfelt thanks for Trinity's support in 2022 of our programs that assist newly arrived refugees in the U.S.

Your contributions have made a real difference in the lives of these newcomers, helping them feel welcome and comfortable in their new communities.

Thank you again. We couldn't do his important work without you. Merritt Groeschel, Executive Director

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From Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service:

I'm incredibly pleased to present your congregation's LIRS 2022 giving summary—an outstanding record of your kindness and compassion. Last year your generosity supported refugee and immigrant families fleeing violence, persecution, and unspeakable hardships in search of a better life.

From resettling refugees to providing basic needs and community connections to supporting welcome centers and programs that offer vital resources like education and workforce assistance, your total charitable giving of \$1,010 last year did so much good!

Sincerely, Andrew G. Steele, VP for Development and Mobilization

Remember in Your Prayers THE CHURCH

our synod & bishops: Bishops Elizabeth E & Leila O
our missionaries: Stephen D & Marta G, Cent. America
our congregation: Trinity Church

THE NATIONS: Afghanistan, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Korea, Mexico, Myanmar, Namibia, Palestine, Somalia, Spain/Cataluña, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, United States, Venezuela

THE SICK AND SUFFERING

nursing/rehabilitation center/hospital

Martha R (Bethesda H&R)
Philip T (Manor Care Potomac)
Yulie N (Village at Rockville)

home

Tigist G, Margo W, Lineth M, Isabel F, Gio S, Vimala P, Anya N, Pam B

family and friends*

Lonnie B, *friend of Carol B*
Donald B, *brother of Marilyn C*
Pastor Sarah F-M, *friend of Anita S*
David G, *friend of Tad and Vi D*
Karen and Harold S, *friends of Pamela B*

first responders

Lisbeth N-D
Greta S & Linda A, *sister & sister-in-law of Anita S*
Vanessa B, *friend of Elizabeth & Ben R*





Trinity Lutheran Church
11200 Old Georgetown Road
North Bethesda, MD 20852-3202

Date Mailed
March 1, 2023

Non-profit Org
US Postage Paid
Permit #34
Suburban, MD
208

Address Service Requested

301-881-7275
office@trinityelca.org
www.trinityelca.org
facebook.com/TrinityELCA
YouTube:
<https://bit.ly/TrinityELCAYoutube>

Thank you for your offering. Your gifts make the ministry of Trinity possible. Electronic giving may be available through your bank or financial institution. Offerings mailed to the church office will be promptly deposited.

Online offering is now available via Paypal! See details on the Trinity website <http://www.trinityelca.org/give>

Thursday Tidings deadline is 12:00 pm Wednesday.
The Trinitarian deadline is the 15th of the prior month.
Submissions should be no more than 150 words. The editor and church staff reserve the right to determine the content of The Trinitarian and may edit articles for clarity, grammar, or length.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

March

SUNDAY, MARCH 5 | 2 LENT

Worship | 9:30 AM

Youth Sunday School | 10:45 AM

Adult Forum | 10:45 AM

SUNDAY, MARCH 12 | 3 LENT

Worship | 9:30 AM

Youth Sunday School | 10:45 AM

Adult Forum | 10:45 AM

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

Soup Suppers | 6:00 PM

Mid Week Lenten Services | 7:00 PM

Trinity Singers Choir Rehearsal | 7:30 PM

MONDAY, MARCH 6

Heavenly Handbells | 7:30 PM

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

Stephen Ministry Supervision | 7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

Trinity Men's Group | 1:00 PM

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

Soup Suppers | 6:00 PM

Mid Week Lenten Services | 7:00 PM

Trinity Singers Choir Rehearsal | 7:30 PM

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

Daylight Savings Time Begins--Turn Clocks Ahead

MONDAY, MARCH 13

Heavenly Handbells | 7:30 PM



See the full calendar here:
www.trinityelca.org/calendar

SUNDAY, MARCH 19 | 4 LENT

Worship | 9:30 AM

Youth Sunday School | 10:45 AM

Adult Forum | 10:45 AM

SUNDAY, MARCH 26 | 5 LENT

Worship | 9:30 AM

Youth Sunday School | 10:45 AM

Adult Forum | 10:45 AM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

Trinitarian Newsletter deadline

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

Soup Suppers | 6:00 PM

Mid Week Lenten Services | 7:00 PM

Trinity Singers Choir Rehearsal | 7:30 PM

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

Reverse Yard Sale and Food Drive | 9:00 AM

MONDAY, MARCH 20

Heavenly Handbells | 7:30 PM

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

Congregation Council | 7:30 PM

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

Soup Suppers | 6:00 PM

Mid Week Lenten Services | 7:00 PM

Trinity Singers Choir Rehearsal | 7:30 PM

MONDAY, MARCH 27

Heavenly Handbells | 7:30 PM

THURSDAY, MARCH 30

Soup Suppers | 6:00 PM

Mid Week Lenten Services | 7:00 PM

Trinity Singers Choir Rehearsal | 7:30 PM



See the full calendar here:
www.trinityelca.org/calendar