



## The Great Three Days

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**Maundy Thursday, March 28, 7:30pm**

**Good Friday, March 29, 7:30pm**

**The Easter Vigil, March 30, 7:30pm**

At the fulcrum of the entire church year is The Great Three Days — the span of time in which the salvation of the world is the focus of the Church’s contemplation. The Great Three Days is one single liturgy involving the drama of redemption stretching from Thursday evening into the brightness of Easter. Together The Great Three Days proclaim the mystery of our faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

### **Maundy Thursday**

With the setting of the sun on Maundy Thursday, our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the globe to begin the three-day liturgy during which we participate in the saving power of Jesus’ passing over from death to life.

The heart of Maundy Thursday is Jesus’ command to love one another. Just as he washed the feet of his disciples, we are called to follow his example and humbly care for each other, especially those who are in need or unloved and even those who would betray, deny, or abandon us. At the Lord’s table we remember Jesus’ sacrifice of his life, even as we are

called to offer ourselves in love for the life of the world.

This first liturgy of the Great Three Days has no ending; our worship continues on Good Friday.

### **Good Friday**

We enter in silence as the liturgy of the Great Three Days continues and we hear the proclamation of our Lord’s passion, pray for the life of the world, and meditate upon the life-giving cross.

Together with Christians around the world on this night, we stand before the cross in awe of what God has accomplished through these events. We are keenly aware that it is “for us and our salvation” that Jesus endures this death. We see ourselves in this story. All of our judgments, hatreds, and fears bring this part of the story to its conclusion. In our best moments, we rise to stand at the foot of the cross in solidarity with Jesus. In our worst moments we deny and betray Jesus and we run away. In our worst moments we turn against each other, scapegoating and blaming the other.

The Gospel evangelists wrote the passion narratives out of their understanding of the events and, to some degree, under growing tension in the first century. These ancient texts disturb and unsettle us, and the discomfort points to the burden of our own complicity in the scapegoating and violence.

This second liturgy of the Great Three Days has no ending; our worship continues on Saturday with The Easter Vigil.

### **The Easter Vigil**

This night the church celebrates the presence of the risen Lord as he brings us to new life in baptism, speaks his word of promise, and comes to us in Christian community with the first Eucharist of Easter.

The beginning of the vigil centers around fire and light. Fire is one of the primary markers of the human species. Humans have assembled around bonfires for light, heat, each other’s company, and to celebrate the wonder of a deity greater than ourselves. When Christians gather on Easter Eve, we acknowledge that, for us, the fire is the light and warmth of the Spirit of the risen Christ, and the company that surrounds the bonfire is his body.

We join this night around the new fire of Easter and, with all of Christ's Holy Church, celebrate his victory over death and the grave. From the new fire we light the Paschal candle and claim Christ's presence in the here and now. Christ is today; his resurrection is now.

The scriptures we read this night offer descriptions of God, metaphors of the resurrection, and references to baptism. The assembly has a vital role as we sing responses to each of the Old Testament readings, following the ancient Hebrew pattern of recitation of text followed by sung response. All the stories and poems we have heard and sung are finally brought to a summary in the proclamation from Paul of Christ's death and resurrection; and our baptism — our death to sin and life to God.

Finally, we turn the corner with our Alleluias of acclamation for the Gospel story of Christ's resurrection. Even our worship space celebrates, with flowers, candles, banners, white and gold and sound and movement as Christ's presence is acknowledged in our assembly! With the first songs of the season, the Easter Vigil is the most celebratory liturgy of the year!

Christ, the true Paschal Lamb, has destroyed death. We join Mary Magdalene and Peter and all of creation to celebrate! Finally we conclude the worship of The Great Three Days and, with Mary Magdalene, we "share the good news," for in the resurrection we know that "Christ is with us."

"As the Day of Resurrection dawns, let us be on our way, one foot confidently in front of another. We have seen what we have longed to see."<sup>1</sup>

Rev. Pauline Farrington<sup>2</sup>  
The Trinitarian, March 2024

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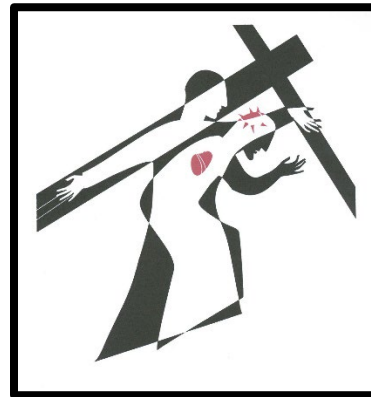
<sup>1</sup> Christopher Hoyer, "Easter Vigil," *Homilies for the Christian People*, 77. © Pueblo Publishing 1989, assigned to Gail Ramshaw.

<sup>2</sup> Resource material: *Worship Guidebook for Lent and the Three Days*, © 2009 Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis.

## Lenten Resources

Looking for a spiritual practice for Lent? A variety of resources have been posted to our website. All are free resources and will engage you in different ways. There is something for all ages. Take a look...

<https://trinityelca.org/lenten-resources/>



## Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross are back up around the Social Hall. You are invited to take some time to walk the way of the cross this Lenten season. At each station you will find a scripture passage and a short prayer.



## Lenten Benevolence

This year's Lenten Benevolence will be given to the Lutheran Disaster Response, International. Please give generously. The need is great.



### Adult Forum

Adult Forum will begin a four-week study of the women specifically noted in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and Bathsheba. Each session is associated with a podcast that will form the centerpiece of our discussion. Each podcast is about an hour long, so we won't have time to listen to them during the Adult Forum session. (Hint: this is homework). The podcasts can be found at this website: <https://www.tenfootpolepodcast.com/unladylike>

The podcasts are also available on Spotify (and probably other streaming services) under the Ten Foot Pole Podcast. Our Manna and Mercy series will start again after Easter.

(Art Work: Tricia Robinson, *The Four*)

### Easter Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt at Trinity



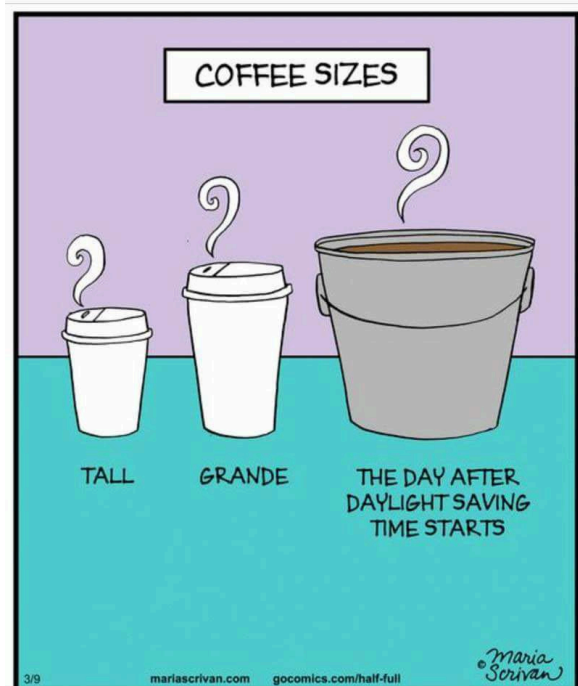
More information about brunch and the Easter egg hunt following Easter service will be in upcoming issues of the Tidings and the weekly Bulletin.



### Trinity's Top Chef

The return of Trinity's long standing cook off was a great success. Over \$300 was raised for Manna Food Center. Thanks to the folks who submitted tasty breakfast casseroles for the competition. There was good hearted ballot stuffing, placing Margaret's St. Pat's Breakfast in first place; that was followed in a close second by Chelsea's Egg Souffle, and in third place, was John's Breakfast 4 You! What a great fellowship opportunity while addressing a great need in the community.

**Day Light Savings Time begins March 10. Turn your clocks back!!!**







## March 16, Monthly Food Drive

Food insecurity is still very real in Montgomery County. Thanks to the many congregation members who continue to support our monthly food drives that 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.

Contact Margaret F at [gmitzwm85@gmail.com](mailto:gmitzwm85@gmail.com) for more information. [See the list of critical food needs here.](#)



## Little Free Library and Pantry

Near the entrance to our large parking lot, facing Old Georgetown Rd., you may have noticed our little library and pantry. They are ready for you to add items or help yourselves to an item. The library is for new or gently used books for both adults and children. The pantry is for non-perishable items, including no fresh produce. A detailed list of what is needed can be found here:

<https://trinityelca.org/little-free-library-lfl-and-little-free-pantry/>.



## Connect to Trinity's Hearing Assistance System

1. Download the AudioFetch app to your smartphone or tablet.
  2. Connect your phone/tablet to the AudioFetch WiFi network.  
(Currently, password should **NOT** be required).
  3. Connect your phone/tablet to your listening device.
- Please come to the A/V table if you need assistance.

## Easter Service

Sunday, March 31, 9:30 AM





**Remember in Your Prayers**

**THE CHURCH**

**our synod & bishops:** Bishops Elizabeth E, Michael B and Leila O  
**our missionaries:** Stephen D/Marta G, Cent. Amer

**our congregation:** Trinity Church

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

**THE SICK AND SUFFERING**

**nursing/rehabilitation center/hospital**

Yulie N (Village at Rockville)

**home**

Isabel F, Tigist G, Lineth M, Anya N, Vimala P, Elizabeth R, Gio S, Margo W

**family and friends\***

Donald B, *brother of Marilyn C*  
 Gene B, *friend of Kim and Pam B*  
 James and Carlene B, *uncle and aunt of Carmen D*  
 Pam C, *sister of Mike M*  
 Sylvia DeV, *sister-in-law of Tad and Vi DeV*  
 Torsten D, *grandson of Thor and Nancy N*  
 Josefa F-V, *friend of Len S*  
 Betsy G, *friend of Margaret F*  
 David G, *friend of Tad and Vi DeV*  
 Debbie G, *friend of Valerie M*  
 Julio Arias G, *friend of Ani and Len S*  
 Lyla G, *friend of Carmen D*  
 Terry K, *brother-in-law of David and Leslie C*  
 Carol K, *mother of Jim K*  
 Mike K, *friend of David and Leslie Cradlin*  
 Susan K, *niece of Nancy and Thor N*  
 Anne L, *friend of Len S*  
 Randi L, *friend of Mike and Valerie M*  
 Juan-Maria M-M, *friend of Len S*  
 Kathy M, *niece of Margaret and Greg F*  
 Tom N, *friend of Carol B*  
 Ditte R, *sister of Thor N*  
 Ursula R, *friend of Trinity*  
 Karen and Harold S, *friends of Pamela B*  
 Victor V and family, *friends of Kim and Pam*  
 Cheryl Van A, *friend of Cathy C*  
 Andrew Z, *friend of Carol B*  
 Family of Commander Joseph D

**deaths**

Ruth Farmer, + February 1, 2024 +, aunt of Donna Shriver  
 Paul Shriver, + February 2, 2024, brother of Steve Shriver  
 Antonio Espino Agredano, + February 8, 2024 +, *friend of Ani and Len S*

**first responders**

Lisbeth N-D  
 Greta S & Linda A, *sister & sister-in-law of Anita S*

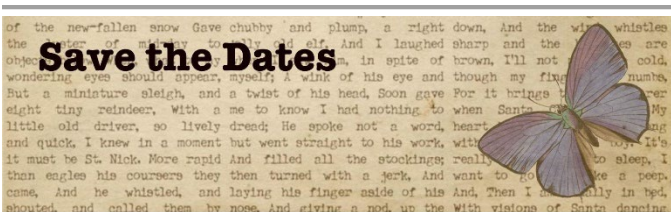
*\*For family and friends, prayer requests will be kept on the list for 4 weeks. To renew, please complete another card/call the office*

**March Birthdays**

01	Alexander L	18	Kathy H
01	Gregory L	20	Ann K
01	Lineth M	25	Scott D
04	Logan D	25	Conner D
09	Karen W	29	Theodore R
12	Brian A	30	Hazel S-M
12	Colin G	31	Evie H
12	Vera N		

**March Baptismal Anniversaries**

05	Marjorie W	12	Benjamin N
06	David C	14	Thorsten D
06	Nancy N	23	Timothy F
09	Nancy J	23	Topher S



**Daylight Saving Time Begins | March 10**

**Next Food Drive | March 16**

**Pr. Pauline's Installation | April 27**



# Trinity's Children and Youth Newsletter

March '24

Hello Everyone!

It was good to see everyone at our Mardi Gras Pancakes and Games Carnival! Now we find ourselves in Lent, finishing the month with Holy Week and Easter. I don't want to jump too far ahead yet, though. Are you enjoying the *Game On* devotional and finding faith connections in the ordinary?

I would encourage you to come to a soup supper and vespers service during these 40 days, as well as to the Triduum services of Holy Week...Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Easter Vigil. I know most of you have the Family Faith Toolbox; I think I need to make another one. One of those tools is a Holy Week version of a nativity set. There is an element to explore and add for Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday, minus Monday and Tuesday. I'm also sharing this video which explains Good Friday.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHTdIBFgpyI>

Please mark your calendars with Pastor Pauline's installation on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

Blessings,  
Valerie

## Dates:

3/7, 14, 21 Soup Suppers & Vespers, 6:00pm  
3/24-30 Holy Week  
3/31 Easter and Egg Hunt

## In the Works:

Children's Koinonia April 6 or 13, 9:30-12  
Pr. Pauline's Installation 4/27, 11:00am

## Faith Practice Corner: Devotional

Follow along with the daily devotions in *Game On*.





# March 2024

SUNDAY, MARCH 3 | 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

Worship | 9:30 AM

Sunday School and Adult Forum | 10:45 AM

SUNDAY, MARCH 10 | 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Worship | 9:30 AM

Sunday School and Adult Forum | 10:45 AM

SUNDAY, MARCH 17TH | 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Worship | 9:30 AM

Sunday School and Adult Forum | 10:45 AM

SUNDAY, MARCH 24 | PALM SUNDAY

Worship | 9:30 AM

Adult Forum | 10:45

**MONDAY, MARCH 4**

Heavenly Handbells | 7:30 PM

**TUESDAY, MARCH 5**

Stephen Ministry Training | 10:00 AM

Staff Meeting | 11:00 AM

Stephen Ministry Supervision | 7:00 PM

**THURSDAY, MARCH 7**

Lenten Soup Supper and Vespers | 6:00 PM

Trinity Singers | 7:30 PM

**MONDAY, MARCH 11**

HEAVENLY HANDBELLS | 7:30 PM

**TUESDAY, MARCH 12**

Stephen Ministry Training | 9:00 AM

Staff Meeting | 11:00 AM

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13**

Men's Group via Zoom | 1:00 PM

**THURSDAY, MARCH 14**

Lenten Soup Supper and Vespers | 6:00 PM

Trinity Singers | 7:30 PM



See the full calendar here:  
[www.trinityelca.org/calendar](http://www.trinityelca.org/calendar)



**SUNDAY, MARCH 31 | EASTER SUNDAY**  
Worship | 9:30 AM

**SATURDAY, MARCH 16**

**Food Drive | 9:00 AM**

**MONDAY, MARCH 18**

**Heavenly Handbells | 7:30 PM**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 19**

**Stephen Ministry Training | 10:00 AM**

**Staff Meeting | 11:00 AM**

**Congregation Council Meeting | 7:30 PM**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 21**

**Lenten Soup Supper and Vespers | 6:00 PM**

**Trinity Singers | 7:30 PM**

**MONDAY, MARCH 25**

**Heavenly Handbells | 7:30 PM**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

**Staff Meeting | 11:00 AM**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 28**

**Maundy Thursday | 7:30 PM**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 29**

**Good Friday | noon and 7:30 PM**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 30**

**Easter Vigil | 7:00 PM**



See the full calendar here:  
[www.trinityelca.org/calendar](http://www.trinityelca.org/calendar)





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

Address Service Requested

Date Mailed  
January 31, 2024

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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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.