

February 2021

Dear Friends,

I'm really looking forward to Lent because it gives us the opportunity to pause and refocus attention on things that are truly important. Our collective psyche has taken quite a beating from the pandemic and the intense world of national politics. You could say we've become unattached to our moorings and we feel like we've been sent reeling to and fro. But all is not lost. We can regroup, refocus, and rejuvenate ourselves by once again listening to God in the middle of a busy work week.

This year for Lent we're going to spend our time focusing on God's Character, taking our lead from Exodus 34:6-7: *The LORD passed before him (Moses) and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."*

Merciful (Compassionate), gracious, slow to anger, steadfast (loyal) love, and faithfulness. These attributes are definitive of God's character. Each week during Lent, we will take a look at one of these attributes of God to give ourselves a picture of God's disposition toward His creation (and us) in spite of circumstances.

The format will be different than that to which we are accustomed. Please take note of this schedule:

Ash Wednesday: In-Person Service w/Holy Communion and Livestream on February 17 at 6:30pm

Midweek Lenten Services: Livestream Only on Facebook and YouTube, Wednesdays at 6:30pm

Holy Week Services: In-Person and Livestream Services, Times TBA

Of course, these can change at a moment's notice depending upon the course of the pandemic, so stay tuned! I pray that our Lord will sustain us and encourage us with the grace shown in our Lord Jesus Christ through the Season of Lent...and always!

In Christ,
Pastor Hoag



FEBUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

An update from Church Council President, Bob Blecke:

“Interesting Times”

“May you live in interesting times” is said to be a translation of an apocryphal Chinese curse. (It has a brief but interesting history for those who like to look up such things). I am sure that many of us have felt we were living through Interesting Times this past year or so, and for many, younger people in particular, these may have been the most Interesting Times they have yet seen.

Yet the Trinity Family has managed to remain largely intact and healthy; our attendance, while mostly virtual and not directly comparable to in-person has remained steady and consistent; and our financial situation was only slightly below 2019 levels.

All things considered, it could have been far more Interesting. But best of all, no matter the earthly score, we have the knowledge and assurance that when the game clock finally runs out, our team wins. No matter the challenges, reverses, losses, gains, our debt is paid; our future secured. When times are Interesting, this assurance is a something not only for us to cling to, but to share with others. I expect you all know people who have been shaken by events in 2020. They may be ready to be invited to hear more about why you can remain calm and optimistic, no matter how Interesting the Times. We’ll make room.

Stay healthy, and we’ll see you soon.

Yours,

Robert Blecke

ANNUAL MEETING: Will be held on February 7th following the 10:30 am in person service.



Contribution statements for income tax purposes are available for members using the offering envelopes. If you have not received a statement in previous years and would like to request one, please contact the church secretary or Tammy Doerrer. If you received a statement in the past you are on the list to automatically receive one each year.



LENT BEGINS February 17, 2020

Ash Wednesday: *In-Person Service w/Holy Communion and Livestream* on February 17 at 6:30pm

Midweek Lenten Services: *Livestream Only* on Facebook and YouTube, Wednesdays at 6:30pm

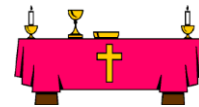
Holy Week Services: *In-Person and Livestream Services*, Times TBA



Soup and sandwich suppers will NOT be held this year.



Trinity Pre-School – Registration for Fall Pre-School is now open. Please tell your friends and neighbors. There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$65.00 per student. School year beginning September 2021 the tuition per month will be \$115 for two-day students and \$145 for three-day students. Children must be 3 by September 1, 2021. For further information, please call Trinity Lutheran Church at 815.485.6973.



Chancel Guild News! Attention ladies of Trinity. We will have meetings this year on the first Saturday of the months of March, April, May, September, November & December. Our one evening meeting will be the night before our Salad Luncheon. Saturday meeting times will be at 9:00 am. We are hoping that this change will encourage more of our ladies to consider joining our Chancel Guild. For more information please Call Judi Donovan at 815-485-6973 or cell: 708-495-0849, or speak to any of our members.

Please remember that we will **not** meet this month but if you have any questions, please contact Judi Donovan or Wendy Kaun.

Chancel Schedule for February:

February 7 – Kay Purnell / Wendy Kaun

February 14 -Wendy Kaun / Robin Krol

February 17 (Ash Wednesday) – Robin Krol / Denise Buchanan

February 21 – Denise Buchanan / Judi Donovan

February 28 – Judi Donovan / Jan Prospero



Unfortunately, choir is still canceled until further notice.



Scrip Fundraiser - This is a gift card fundraiser - they are the same gift cards you can purchase from retailers, including over 300 brand-name grocery, department stores, restaurants, gas stations, hotels, home improvement, etc. **We order the gift cards at a discount, and you pay face value for the gift cards. (For example, you pay \$25 for a \$25 Speedway gift card - the youth group obtains the card at a discount and keeps the difference.)** You can purchase gift cards by filling out an order form (located by the youth bulletin board) or by placing your order online at shopwithscrip.com. If interested in placing orders online, you will need an enrollment code. Ask Angie Minett for the code or stop by the church office. Direct any questions you may have to Angie Minett at minett411@yahoo.com or 815-228-4902.

The next deadline for turning in orders along with payment is Sunday, February 7th at noon. The cards will be ready for pick-up at church the following weekend (February 14th).

Thank you to everyone who has been supporting our efforts!
Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

THANK
YOU

Thank you to Jeff McDonald for painting Founders Hall for us. It was a needed upgrade and was very much appreciated.



Confirmation Class – is now meeting in person and online on Sunday evenings at 6:00 pm.



Wednesday Morning Bible Class is held at 8:30 a.m. in person and online. If you are interested in attending online, please give Pastor Hoag a call and he will provide the link.

Thursday Evening Bible Class is held at 7:00 p.m. in person and online. If you are interested in attending online, please give Pastor Hoag a call and he will provide the link.



ALTAR FLOWERS: A new 2021 Altar Flower Calendar has been posted. You can find it in the glass case hanging on the wall across the old office. If you would like to reserve a weekend for 2021 in memory of a loved one, to commemorate a birthday, wedding anniversary, or in celebration of God's blessings, please fill out a sponsor sheet. Sponsor sheets are located on a hook attached to the glass case housing the calendar. **Please do not fill in the calendar. Fill out a sponsor sheet and put it in the Chancel Guild mail box in the general office.** Flowers are \$30.00 for both arrangements. If you would like a weekend already spoken for, it is sometimes possible to share the cost and arrangements with permission from the person already sponsoring. Chancel Guild members would like to thank those of you who sponsored a weekend this past year. We appreciate your efforts to help us enhance and beautify the altar area. If you have any questions, email Kay Purnell at purnellk51@hotmail.com or call her at (815) 485-9017

Flowers left in the refrigerator will be disposed of after 1 weeks.

Flowers for February are as follows:

February 7 - Rita Larson in Thanksgiving for Her Many Blessings

February 14 – Tom & Wendy Kaun in Memory of Their Parents

February 21 – Mr. Robert Bollman in Memory of His Loving Wife and Mother, Marlen

February 28 – Jan Falk in Memory of Her Son, Ernie Falk Jr. and Judi Donovan in Memory of Her Father, Sylvester Sullivan

Usher Information:

Special Thanks to all Ushers, listed below, who have served during this COVID pandemic at regular services until March, then summer outdoor services, November modified indoor service, and Christmas Eve.

Trinity Lutheran Church Ushers

1 st Sunday	8:AM	Tom Kaun Larry Wennlund	815 485 9604 815 274 2213
	10:30AM	Brett Carr Paul Krol	815 370 6651 815 575 1315
2 nd Sunday	8:AM	Edward A. Tatro** Tim King	815 485 5760 815 463 0415
	10:30AM	Anthony Lopez Tom Buell Tommy Buell	815 722 5594 815 4853769 “
3 rd Sunday	8:AM	Mike Gardner Gary Purnell	815 485 9623 815 485 9017
	10:30AM	Jeff McDonald Mike Lyman	815 462 2454 815 485 4637
4 th Sunday	8:AM	Al McCullough Steve Tomany Randy Varju	815 739 0301 815 485 3163 815 485 7204
	10:30AM	John Buell Phil McFarlane	815 726 3601 815 806 1219
5 th Sunday	8:AM	Rex Toepke Jeff Lorenz	815 485 2638 815 463 0833
	10:30AM	Paul Krol Diane Sewing**	815 575 1315 815-592-3911

Alternates:	Biff Aiken	815 954 0682		
	Robert Stark	708 307 4069	Duncan Bachmann	815 485-3787
	Bill Jackson	815 485 8431	Bob Jackman	815 933-3864

** Co-chairs Worship and Spiritual Life

February Usher Schedule:

1 st Sunday: Tom Kaun and Larry Wennlund

2 nd Sunday: Tim King and Ed Tatro

3 rd Sunday: Mike Gardner and Gary Purnell

4 th Sunday: Steve Tomany and Randy Varju

Church office hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm