

February 2022

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 March 2nd 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



FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

An update from Church Council President, Gary Purnell:

Hello Fellow Trinity Members:

My name is Gary Purnell. I am the new 2022/2023 Church Council President. I am writing to introduce myself even though many of you already know me. My family and I have been Trinity members since 1978. My wife's name is Kay, and toHello Fellow Trinity Membergether we have four grown children. One of my daughters, Angelle Minette, and her husband, Jim, and their four daughters live in Minooka but go to Trinity. Angelle serves as one of our Sunday School teachers. My other daughter, Emily Perkins, and her family live here in New Lenox and also go to Trinity. Emily and her husband, Michael, have two little girls, one of which goes to our Preschool here at Trinity. My wife and I also have two sons, Stephen and Shawn, who grew up going to Trinity but now live with their families in the Atlanta, GA area.

I am originally from Wisconsin but moved to Illinois with my family in 1978 after serving 5 years in the U.S. Marine Corps. After leaving the Marine Corps, I worked in the manufacturing business most of my career, retiring in 2016. Since then, my wife and I have enjoyed traveling, golfing, and spending time with our nine grandchildren.

Kay and I have been involved in various church activities since joining Trinity 44 years ago. I was the treasurer for the Church Council for several years. My wife and I were members and held offices for our Couples Club back in the 70s and 80s. Kay and I also were Directors of the Youth Group when our children were in their teens. Kay presently is the Flower Lady for Chancel Guild, and I also serve as the Treasurer of the Preschool.

I am looking forward to serving you as the President of our Council.

It is a privilege to serve with such a dedicated group of people. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Pastor Hoag, current and outgoing members of the Council, and all of the volunteers who have worked diligently to keep us going through the Pandemic. A special thank you to the members of our congregation who, with their generous support, allow us to continue our mission.

Gary Purnell

ANNUAL MEETING: Will be held on February 6th 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 March 2, 2022

Ash Wednesday: *In-Person Service w/Holy Communion and Livestream* on March 2nd at 6:30pm

Midweek Lenten Services: In Person & *Livestream* on Facebook and YouTube, TBA.

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

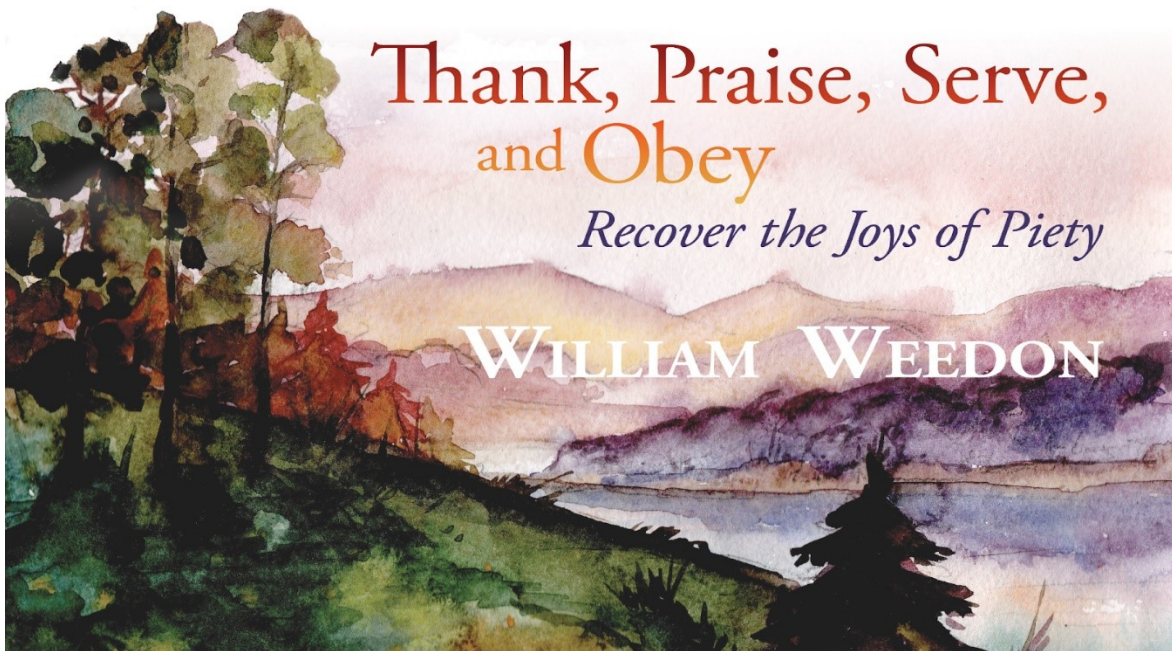
LENT 2022

Our Lenten Focus will be *Thank, Praise, Serve, and Obey: Recover the Joys of Piety* by William Weedon.

Piety has fallen on hard times.

Some associate it with its evil twin, pietism, and reject piety based on the incorrect assumption that the two are one and the same. Pietism is inwardly focused, obsessed with carefully following spiritual to-do lists and rules. Piety, rather, fights against that inward focus, turning our attention out toward God and His promises and toward our neighbor in love and care. Piety is simply the cultivation of godly habits—habits that befit the household of God, the family of our heavenly Father.

In *Thank, Praise, Serve, and Obey: Recover the Joys of Piety*, Martin Luther's small catechism and the Book of Concord serve as our trusty roadmaps as we explore how to properly hear in the Scriptures our heavenly Father summoning us to the joy and freedom of living and growing as His beloved children through Jesus Christ.



To get the most out of this Lenten Focus, do these things:

1. Purchase the book in any format you wish (available through Concordia Publishing or Amazon)
2. Read one chapter a week
3. Attend, or watch, the Midweek Lenten Services on Wednesday evenings at 6:30, beginning March 2
4. Download the *PrayNow* app by Concordia Publishing House from your App Store (Optional)
5. Do the daily devotions on the *PrayNow* app (if you downloaded the app)
6. Read Pastor's weekly blog at <http://pastordoughoag.blogspot.com> (Optional)

Use this opportunity during the 40 days of Lent to learn and grow! Please contact Pastor Hoag if you have any questions.



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 2022 the tuition per month will be \$120 for two-day students and \$150 for three-day students. Children must be 3 by September 1, 2022. 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 speak to any of our members.

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

Chancel Schedule for February:

February 6 – Doris Bay / Jennifer Mudrock
February 13 - Jennifer Mudrock / Debbie Crawford
February 20 - Debbie Crawford / Wendy Kaun
February 27 – Wendy Kaun / Rita Larson



Sunday School News: On Saturday, February 12th, Sunday School will be hosting a Valentine Day Party in the church gym from 2-4 pm. This party is for all Sunday School Families and all of Trinity's Family. Come join us for a great afternoon!!



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 6th at noon. The cards will be ready for pick-up at church the following weekend (February 13th).

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



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 - Fresh flowers are used to adorn the altar as a symbol of life and joy. They are part of the beauty of creation. Chancel Guild very much appreciates and needs the congregation's support and help in keeping fresh flowers on the altar. You can help by sponsoring an available Sunday. A new 2022 Altar Flower Calendar has been posted in the glass case hanging on the wall outside of the general office. If you would like to reserve a Sunday for 2022 in memory of a loved one, to commemorate a birthday, a wedding anniversary, or in celebration of God's Blessings, please fill out a sponsor order sheet and put it in The Chancel Guild mailbox. The sheets are located on a hook attached to the glass case housing the calendar. If you have any questions, please contact Kay Purnell at purnellk51@hotmail.com or (815)485-9017.

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

Flowers for February are as follows:

February 6 - Rita Larson in Thanksgiving for Her Many Blessings & from Chuck and Sandy Peters in Thanksgiving for their Many Blessings

February 13 – Gary & Kay Purnell in Memory of Ray & Elvira Purnell and LaVerne Yeske

February 20 – Robert Bollman in Memory of Robert's Loving Wife Marlen

February 27 – Jan Falk in Memory of Jan's Son, Ernie Falk Jr.

Usher Information: If you are interested in becoming an usher, please contact Ed Tatro or Diane Sewing.

February Usher Schedule:

February 6 - 9:00 am Tom Kaun / Larry Wennlund

10:30 am Brett Carr / Paul Krol

February 13 - 9:00 am Ed Tatro / Tim King

10:30 am Tom Buell / Bob Blecke

February 20 - 9:00 am Mike Gardner / Gary Purnell

10:30 am Jeff McDonald / Dana Knodel

February 27 - 9:00 am Steve Tomany / Randy Varju

10:30 am John Buell / Phil MacFarlane

Social Ministry - Social Ministry would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the congregation for donating yarn and fleece to our latest service project. We were able to complete 14 blankets for the elderly and for hospice patients with the help of the following congregants: Deb Aiken, Marnean Briese, Pam Burke, Jan Clark, Michelle Hoag, Wendy Kaun, Sharon Lorenz, Jeff and Janell McDonald, Nancy Minnick, Kay Parnell, Emily Perkins, and Jan Toepke. We will soon deliver the yarn and blankets to Vitas Healthcare in Tinley Park where they will be distributed to those in need.

Church Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm