

March 2016

Dear Fellow Trinitarians,

As we continue in the season of Lent we set our faces with that of Jesus as he goes to the cross. This is part of what it means to take up our cross and follow him. It's a hard and difficult road, but after death is resurrection. To God be the glory!

The cross of Jesus is the payment for our sin as Jesus dies in our place. Our sins and the guilt of our iniquities, our selfishness and our hopes for vainglory, are shown to us for what they really are. They bring death and violence. But Jesus takes that violence into his own body, and death and sin is put to death once and for all.

Jesus rises from the dead, no longer as the sin-bearer, but as the Son of God and Son of Man! He is the New Adam, the Firstfruits of the greater harvest, which is the Final Resurrection of all the baptized and believing people who had died in the faith. Easter is the day we celebrate that points forward to the Last Easter when the Church of Christ will live in God-given glory for eternity!

I look forward to seeing you for the great Celebration. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!!

In Christ,  
Pastor Hoag

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# MARCH 2016 NEWSLETTER



Lent started February 10<sup>th</sup> with our Ash Wednesday Service. **Lenten services will be held each Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m.**

## **MIDWEEK LENTEN SERIES: LUTHERANISM 101--BACK TO THE BASICS**

Our Midweek Lenten Services for 2016 will be a focus on *The Small Catechism of Dr. Martin Luther (1530)*. Each week we will zero in on one of the chief parts of the Catechism and see what Luther himself had to say about them. We will have congregational recitations of the catechism as well as brief sermons on each chief part. Come and explore our rich Lutheran heritage!

March 2 - Midweek 3 - *God Adopts Us: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism*

March 9 - Midweek 4 - *God Gives Us Pastors: The Office of the Keys and Confession*

March 16 - Midweek 5 - *God Feeds Us: The Sacrament of Holy Communion*

March 24 - Maundy Thursday - *We Examine Ourselves: Christian Questions and Their Answers*

March 25 - Good Friday - *Darkness Reigns (But Not For Long)*



***Soup and sandwich suppers are held at 6:30 p.m., just prior to each Lenten service.*** Thank you to the organizations who prepared, or will be preparing the meal the following weeks. The proceeds from the free-will offering baskets on the table will be given to the Youth Group. The Youth will also be assisting each organization with the serving and cleaning up each week.

February 17 – Youth Group  
February 24 – Chancel Guild  
March 2 – Sunday School  
March 9 – Church Council  
March 16 – Women’s League



**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 Janice Prospero. If you have received a statement in the past you are on the list to automatically receive one each year.

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**Financial Report:** The congregation adopted a 2016 General Fund Budget of \$207,457 at its Annual Meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup>. The Budget is 2.8% higher than the 2015 budget. The Council deemed the adjustment warranted to cover expected operating costs. Modest salary increases of 2% were granted for Pastor, the Church Secretary and Choir Director. Primary support of the General Fund by the congregation is very important to meeting Trinity's ongoing needs.

Our congregation was truly blessed with financial support during 2015. General Fund receipts, that were higher than in 2014, and special donations allowed the payment of all commitments. We want to thank everyone for their support of Trinity Lutheran Church and its missions. If you could not make the Annual Meeting and have financial questions, please contact Janice Prospero, Financial Secretary, or Tim King, Treasurer.



**UPDATE FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT, JEFF McDONALD.** As we discussed in this year's annual meeting, our 75th anniversary year in 2015 was a great year on a number of levels, one of which involved the church itself. Two major improvements to our house of worship included a new organ and the long-awaited installation of a lift, both of which are used with regularity to the enjoyment and benefit of our members. We will be finalizing the last of the lift project (railings, Elm Street paving and Cedar Road stairs) as soon as the weather warms up enough for this work to be completed.

We went on to discuss some other improvements that our church could use and we hope to raise sufficient funds to accomplish these improvements either in 2016 or 2017 (the stained glass window repair cost will be sizable). Our top priorities this year include regrading of the church courtyard to address water run-off, replacement of the gym windows with more efficient (and unbroken) windows, movement of several of our current rooms and offices for better utilization by all, new flooring in our library and narthex and repair and maintenance of our beautiful stained-glass windows to ensure they are enjoyed for decades to come. Please be on the lookout for signs in the church about these various projects - including how you might help us fund one or more of them - as we are hoping to raise money from our members to fund these improvements without incurring any debt for our church. Please also be on the lookout for ways in which you can help with certain of these projects, as some of them will benefit from volunteers willing and able to donate their hands and their time. Our thanks to the Property Committee as well as a number of others who have volunteered to assist in the completion of these projects.

We also discussed the possibility of employing Virgil Switzer as our Custodian and the possibility of supporting Virgil in his move to the area. I am pleased to report that Virgil

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has already taken up residence in Joliet in an apartment near the train station and he is looking forward to commencing part-time employment by Trinity starting on March 1st. Virgil is currently enjoying a 10-minute train ride from his new home to Trinity compared to the 3-hour ride he used to endure to attend our services. Please join me in welcoming Virgil as our newest employee!

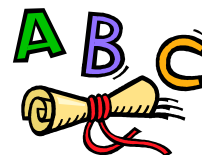
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**Fannie May Candy Bar Sale!** Rita Larson is continuing to sell candy bars for \$1.00 each. They are available after church services, or in the church office. Please deposit your money in the envelope inside the candy bar box. This is for the benefit of the Chancel Guild. The proceeds from the February sales will be given to the Youth Group for the trip in July. **These are great for Easter baskets!**



**Bible Classes – everyone is invited to attend.**  
**Sunday Morning – meets at 9:15 a.m. in the library; and**  
**Wednesday Morning – meets from 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. in the library.**



**Pre-School Registration for September 2016-2017.** If you know of anyone who is interested, please have them call the pre-school at 815.485.6973. There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$60.00 per student. The tuition per month for the school year beginning September 2016, will be \$105.00 for two day students and \$130 for three day students. Children must have turned 3 by September 1, 2016.

Pre-School Board Meeting is scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 a.m.

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## SOCIAL MINISTRY

All ladies of Trinity are invited to join our committee. If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact the church office at 815.485.6973.

**Our next meeting will be March 14th at 7:00 p.m.** at Jeanine Welsh's home.



### **St. Matthew's Outreach:**

We are continuing with our collection of clothing and household goods as well as food for St. Matthew's. Food items should be placed in the container at the top of the steps by the parking lot door. Clothing and household goods should be placed in the room at the East end of the church basement. Thanks to Chuck and Sandy Peters for taking items to St. Matthew's last month.



*Our pizza sale was held in February with the proceeds given to the Youth Group to help them with their trip to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July.* Thanks to our members we sold 110 pizzas with a profit of \$433.60, which has been given to the Youth. Thanks also to the Social Ministry Committee for all their help with this project. TJs Pizza in St. Louis sent us some sample pizzas and the committee baked and served these samples to our members after some church services. A special thanks to Jan Toepke for chairing this project and for compiling all the orders.

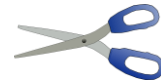


### **Social Ministry's Outreach Project - Sole Hope**

***Collections for "Sole Hope" were taken after each service on Saturday and Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The total collected was \$1,303.00. Thank you for your donations. These funds will be sent to Sole Hope, along with the shoe parts that a lot of our members have already helped cut. Your donation helps to pay the tailor, the shoemaker, supplies needed to finish the shoes, and to help get the shoes overseas.***

***Monetary donations may be made at any time. Please make checks payable to Trinity Lutheran Church, and write Sole Hope on the "memo line". Cash donations should be placed in an envelope with the name Sole Hope written on it. Please visit [www.solehope.org](http://www.solehope.org) for further details or to watch their video.***

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### **SOLE HOPE "SHOE CUTTING WORKSHOP - Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**Social Ministry Committee would like to thank everyone who helped at our Sole Hope "shoe cutting workshop" last month.** We had a great turnout and the workers were able to get acquainted with other church members. We completed 75 pair of shoes and each pair consists of 12 individual pieces. Each of those pieces are traced and cut separately, so many hands make it go a lot faster. We had 20 workers which included a few men and a couple high school girls.

**Due to the great success of the first workshop and the enthusiasm of those who helped, another workshop will be held on Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., and again in the evening from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. We can use your help. Please bring a pair of scissors that are good for cutting material! A sign-up sheet is on the card table outside the gym door.**



*A pair of orange handled scissors were left after our first workshop. They are on the counter in the office.*



### **JEANS COLLECTION**

*Prior to our next workshop, we need donations of old, **usable** jeans. **Please be sure to wash them before bringing them to church.** You may put them under the card table by the gym door. For more information on this project please visit [www.solehope.org](http://www.solehope.org).*



**NEEDED:** Coffee Host/Hostess for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month after the early service. A sign-up sheet is on the hallway table. Please take a turn and sign up for one or more months.

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## **TRINITY'S TENTH ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT!!**

Please join in the fun and bring your kids, grandkids and young relatives, along with a camera, baskets and smiles to TRINITY'S 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT! **Fifth Graders and younger, please join us again on Saturday, March 26, 2016 starting at 10:00 a.m. for a lot of fun in a short period of time! Lineup will start 5 minutes before 10:00 a.m.** The Easter Bunny will once again make an appearance for the little ones in the gym!

### TO THE TRINITY CONGREGATION

In the past, I have had many members of our congregation ask me about donations for the East Egg Hunt. Yes, absolutely you can donate if you'd like! I am happy to accept wrapped candy, plastic Easter eggs or small items such as stickers, small toys, bouncy balls, crafty stampers, clings or anything small enough to fit inside a plastic Easter egg. Thank you again for your generosity and **Donations can be dropped off in the marked box in the church office anytime between today and Wednesday, March 23, 2016.** Thank you again for your generosity and support!

### CONFIRMATION CLASSES

***As part of a Service Project for Confirmation Class and to make Trinity's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Egg Hunt a success, we are asking the families of all Confirmands to please donate at least one bag of either individually wrapped candy, toys, wrist bands, or other small items that fit inside an egg.*** Please leave your donation in the box which is located in the Church Office anytime between now and Wednesday, March 23, 2016. Thank you. ***Please, no candy containing nuts due to allergies.***

Confirmation Class Students - do you need Service Hours? Helpers are needed to hide the eggs downstairs. Meet me, Doris Bay around 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 26 in the Gym and I'll show you where to go. PLEASE SEE THE SIGN UP SHEET ON THE DESK OUTSIDE THE GYM! THANKS!

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**High School students and parents** - We are having a special video series "Enjoy the Ride!" about spiritual parenting, responsibility, and driving during the Sunday School hour on March 6, 13, and 20. Spiritual

Parenting videos go beyond just preparing teens for responsibility associated with driving. Getting a driver's license is a milestone for both teenagers and their parents.

Parents and teens learn together how to communicate with accountability and trust, then how to clarify expectations. It all fits hand in hand in learning how to make responsible choices in other areas of life. We also show you how to create a blessing for your child that can be used throughout their life. Bob Romadka will be our facilitator and we will meet in the youth room. Students need to come with a parent. Plan to come each Sunday! Suggested donation to cover costs – \$5 per high school student (once only, not every Sunday).



Thank you to everyone who ordered Super Subs for Super Bowl! We made 71 sandwiches and received \$390. Hope you all thought they were tasty! A special thank you to Thrivent for providing a grant to purchase all the ingredients through their Thrivent Action Teams program.



**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](http://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](mailto:minett411@yahoo.com) or [\(815\)467-2537](tel:8154672537).

**Due to the Easter holiday, there is only one scrip order turn in date for March. Our next deadline for turning in orders along with payments is Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at noon. They will be ready for pick-up at church the following weekend (March 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>). If you are in need of gift cards as Easter gifts, this is the time to order them.**

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**The March Sign-Up sheets for Readers, Greeters and MorningStar Mission are on the hallway table!**



### **Family Dinners**

This is a new project that Emily Niemann is spearheading. This involves getting together with other members outside of church for a time of food and fellowship.

Hosts provide the meal and attendees bring dessert. You can sign up to host, attend, or both. There are few rules here - the idea is to break bread together and get to know other Trinity members a little better. Applications are on the hallway table or for more details you may contact Emily at 815.258.6868 or email her at [mrlsmly@yahoo.com](mailto:mrlsmly@yahoo.com) **Please turn in your completed form by Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>.**



**March 25<sup>th</sup> - Good Friday Cross Walk sponsored by the New Lenox Ministerial Association, starting at St. Jude at 10:00 a.m.** All denominations are invited to participate in this symbolic walk of Jesus to Calvary, following a wooden cross carried by youth from various churches. Walkers will follow the cross and offer a hymn, brief homily and prayer at each stop. It will finish here at Trinity around noon.



**MorningStar Mission:** The next serving dates for March are the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all the volunteers who help each week. It was nice to have a couple new volunteers. If you are interested in helping, the sign up sheet is on the hallway table.

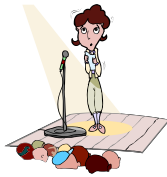
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**Chancel Guild**: The next meeting will be **Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** All ladies of Trinity are invited to visit. Hostesses are Doris Bay and Rita Larson.



**The Chancel Guild will again be decorating the Chancel area of church with a variety of Easter flowers this year.** Blue order forms are on the hallway table and on the stand outside the church office. **Forms, along with payment, must be turned in by Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>.** If you have any questions, please call Christine Stark at 815.478.4069 or call the church office at 815.485.6973.



**Women's League** The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 29th at 12:30 p.m. They will be tying blankets. Hostesses will be Jan Toepke and Millie Steinbrenner. All ladies of Trinity are invited and encouraged to attend.



**ALTAR FLOWERS**: Flowers are placed on our altar every Sunday to enhance and beautify our altar area in memory of a loved one, to commemorate a birthday, wedding anniversary or in celebration of God's blessings. The flower order forms are attached to the cabinet in the hallway outside the church office. If you would like to give altar flowers, complete the form and place it in the Chancel Guild mailbox in the church office. ***We have two open weekends in March – the 13<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup>.*** If you have any questions, please call Christine Stark at 815.478.4069 or email Chris at [candb.stark@gmail.com](mailto:candb.stark@gmail.com). The cost of the flowers is \$8.50 per vase or \$17.00 for both vases. The flowers may be picked up after the Sunday service.

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**THRIVENT MEMBERS – Don't forget to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars by March 31<sup>st</sup>.** You can do this online or call 1-800-THRIVENT. See Michelle Hoag if you have questions.

## PRAYER

*changes things*

The April – June 2016 Portals of Prayer are here. Pick up your copy from the wall display in the Narthex or from the hallway table.



**Balance Class.** Will be held here at Trinity on Monday mornings, from April 4th through May 23rd from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. This is run through the Village of New Lenox. **Class size is limited to 15 and there is only one opening available.** Please call the church office if you are interested.



**FOOD COLLECTION.** Virgil Switzer has moved to Joliet. He is renting a room but he has no kitchen facility. **To help him get started** we are asking for some food items that would be kept here at church, for him to use while he is working here. **If you would like to donate, please check the list inside the cabinet, above the microwave, next to the large refrigerator in the gym kitchen area.** *This cabinet is the designated space for non-perishable food items for Virgil. If you bring any refrigerated or frozen food, please place them in the smaller refrigerator/freezer on the North side of the gym and mark them "for Virgil".* We don't want to stockpile too much, so please check the list weekly to see what is needed. Please bring individual size servings and remember that the microwave is the only way the foods can be heated.

**CHECK  
it OUT**

**LOST AND FOUND ITEMS:** There are 2 large cookie/jelly roll pans and also two baking dishes on the coat rack outside the gym. Take and look – if they are yours, please take them home. They have been here quite a while.

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**Holy Week  
& Easter**

March 24, 2016 Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 p.m.  
March 25, 2016 Good Friday Cross Walk 10:00 a.m.  
March 25, 2016 Good Friday Service 7:30 p.m.  
March 26, 2016 Easter Vigil with Communion 5:00 p.m.  
March 27, 2016 Easter Sunday Services 7:00 and 10:30 a.m.  
(Easter Breakfast immediately following the 7:00 a.m. service)



**VBS – SAVE THE DATE! June 20-24<sup>th</sup>.**

**Church office hours:** Monday and Thursday, 9-3, Tuesday and Friday, 9-12.

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