

The Monthly Newsletter Publication of Triune Lutheran Church
“Set Free to Serve One Another”
February 2018

Address:

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Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday, 10AM – 1PM

Worship Schedule:

Saturdays 5PM (contemporary)

Sundays 11AM (traditional)

Ministers.....All People

Pastor.....Brad Ross

Administrative Assistant.....Jan Piskac

Organist.....Edith Schatt

Council President.....Dale Kirk

Council Vice-President.....Bonnie Piskac

Council Secretary.....Bill Weidman

Council Treasurer.....Jack Schwab

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

In a few weeks we'll begin the journey of Lent with Ash Wednesday, when the cross will be marked on our forehead with ashes, a reminder of our mortality. It always varies from person-to-person how long they leave that dark mark. Do you use the restroom before you even leave the church? Do you immediately wash it off when you get home right after the service? Of course, it's a bigger question if you go to worship earlier in the day. Regardless, no matter how quickly we get rid of the cross of ashes on our foreheads, our mortality remains a reality.

However, lest we forget, there's a cross that was made on our forehead long before ashes ever came along. It was done so with oil at our baptism, and no matter how quickly it may have faded to the eye, it remains on us, with us: "marked with the cross of Christ forever." At that time, we were marked into a journey of life and death, not only for our own, but to experience the life and death of others. We were marked into the ministry of the cross: not a ministry of telling people how to feel, or to be a living self-help book of clichés, but to, at times, do absolutely nothing but listen. To be part of a ministry that empowers us to accompany one another through all the hills and valleys of a lifetime.

Ash Wednesday is a renewal of sorts, where we can renew our acceptance of our own mortality and still manage to live in spite of it. That's why we celebrate Holy Communion that night as well, the meal that manages to bring life out of death. After all, Ash Wednesday is a new beginning, not just into a forty-day spiritual cleansing, but a recommitment to the life of the cross: into sacrifice, humility, and death-defying dedication. And as we will hear on this journey we call Lent, we do not take this on alone, but with Christ right by our side, even into death and beyond. Thanks be to God indeed! Amen.

In Christ,
Pastor Brad



Find us on Facebook at:
Triune Lutheran Church



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

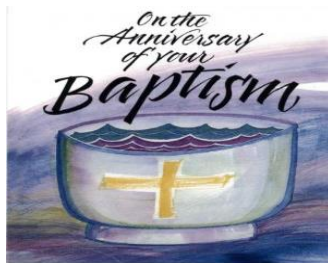
Prayer Request

We ask you to keep the following sisters and brothers in Christ in your prayers:

Jenny Bennett	Trudy Weidman
Jan Halishak	Gary Weiss
Ken Hotz	Mardell Weiss
Hazel Schwab	Clara Wilcox
Ed Uhler	Dave Wilcox

If you wish to send any cards, please send them, or drop them off, to the church office, and we will be sure to deliver them.

- 1 Carol Dorsey
- 2 Norelle Gress
- 8 Ed Uhler
- 12 Almut Zvosec
- 21 Jack Schwab



- 8 Sarah Bailey

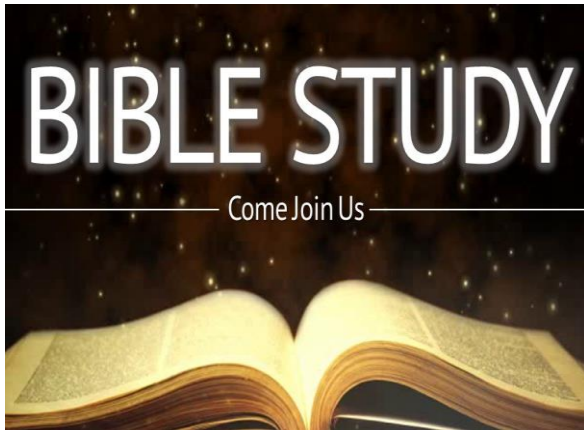
Thank you very much for your incredibly generous Christmas gift! Your kindness is truly humbling as we continue this journey of ministry together going forward for Triune and beyond. Blessings to all of you! - Pastor Brad

Thank You



Our next semi-annual congregational meeting will be after the worship service on Sunday, March 4, as we hear updates on all that's going on with our community of faith, including our finances and ideas for the future with ministry. This is an important opportunity to share conversations about Triune, so we encourage you to join us on March 4!

*****Last chance to get your update in for the church directory for 2018, please let us know by February 5th.*** These will be out in the next few weeks.**



Monday's at 1:00 PM

We will continue our discussion of the Gospel of John:
The Way to True Life
Hoping to see you then...Bring a friend!

Always welcoming new participants!

To order a study book, please contact the church office.

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, February 14, as Triune will host an Ash Wednesday service starting at 5PM. The service will include an opportunity for the imposition of ashes, as well as Holy Communion, as we begin our precious journey of Lent.



Corner Computer Desk, in good condition, it is available for anyone who is interested in picking it up from the church, free of charge! Of course, we'll always accept donations 😊

Minutes of Triune Lutheran Church Council Meeting of 10 January 2018

Meeting opened at 6:06 PM with a prayer by Pastor Brad.

Minutes of last meeting of 04 December 2017 were used for reference, but approval not required as that was done previous to meeting by email.

Jack reported a \$15,223 checking account balance and a 31 December 2017 ending value of \$157,289.34 on our Thrivent Mutual Fund. Jack also reported an agreement reached for Saturday musician services for a reduced amount of \$2,600 per year (\$50 per week).

There was discussion of repair for Willmann Hall "blistered" wall coverings. Bonnie has found contacts for people who might offer quotes for repairs. It is doubtful that injecting cement would work. There is the concern that just pulling and re-cementing might damage covering and/or wall surface. Also, the question of whether removal and just using painted walls might harm the good acoustics of the room. The expertise of those who might quote repairs might help decide the best approach.

Bonnie reported an inquiry for a five-day 8AM-4PM rental of our hall for use for an industrial equipment local show involving use of operating equipment that would produce grinding sparks. It was decided that, not being sure if our insurance coverage would handle any damage losses from this type of usage, we would forego this rental possibility.

Bill reported no response to 05 December 2017 inquiry to Crown Castle, Inc., in Houston, as to any estimated probability of actual exercise of our option and ground lease agreement for a cell tower with them. Intent to follow with an inquiry as to whom to address this question.

Pastor reported a substantial number of visitors to our web site.

We are seeking someone with design skills to develop a logo for us.

It was decided to have an Ash Wednesday service on 14 February at 5 PM.

Pastor announced he will attend a pastoral retreat in Huron 16 through 18 January.

Authorized for \$160 expenditure for Facebook listing Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, Saturday, at lowest listing level for February and March at \$80 per month. See 04 December 2017 minutes for details.

Decided to make decision on whether to hold 13 January Saturday service by Noon on the 13th, this due to the severe weather warnings.

Announced that Almut has filed for full property tax exemption for our church, which would be a substantial saving per year and a large refund, if approved.

Decided to let Jim Harrington continue to use barn storage space until 01 April of this year.

New rental agreement with SGCC announced. Rental now \$600 per month.

Meeting ended at 7:08 PM

Next Meeting at 6:00 PM Monday 05 February 2018

Initial copies to attendees: Dale Kirk, Pastor Brad, Bonnie Piskac, Jack Schwab, and Bill Weidman

Submitted 14 January 2018

Choosing Gentleness (M. Craig Barnes, President, Princeton Theological Seminary)

He was a burly, muscular lineman for his college football team. He spent years going nose to nose with opponents on the field, but now he was standing at the altar with his petite bride, reciting marital vows. He said most of the traditional things like “in sickness and health,” but then he added a clause no one saw coming: “and I will always be gentle with you.” At that point, I started to tear up.

I’ve officiated at hundreds of weddings over my 36 years of pastoral ministry, but I have only heard that phrase once in the exchange of vows. Blessedly it came early in my service to the church. Since then it has inspired my understanding of how Christians should face each other: in gentleness.

If we think through our favorite virtues, gentleness might not be at the top of the list. Yet it is among the fruit of the Spirit identified by the apostle Paul. His point is that it’s impossible to be enlivened by the Holy Spirit without being gentle.

We tend to think of gentleness as a weak or fragile thing. But as a virtue it arises from strength, from strong people who choose to honor the sacredness of their relationships. The gentle don’t find their strength in the ways society has privileged them, nor in the success of their pursuits on the many fields of competition. Among Christians the gentle find their strength in their identity as people created in the image of God, people whom Jesus Christ was dying to love. When we take seriously the holiness of our lives—lives redeemed from everything we’ve done to profane that holiness—we’re made strong in the grace of God. And those who have attended to the grace they have received tend to want to be gracious to others.

The Jewish theologian Abraham Heschel claimed that when God’s creatures come together, a holy space is created between them. It is in this realm that they can always find the Creator still at work. If they leave their relationships, they also leave behind that holy space. Jesus promised something similar when he promised to be in the midst of two or three who come together in his name.

There are many things individuals can do to nurture their own spiritual lives, but no one can absolve their own sins. For that we need a minister, a priest who is attentive to the Savior between us. As we encounter the Savior in our midst our souls are transformed from being weak and sin-sick to being strong and healthy. But the purpose of a strong soul has always been to care for the rest of God’s creation—a gentle vocation.

We live in a time of deep suspicion of the strong for their temptation to become bullies. History provides plenty of good reasons for this suspicion. But when the strong abuse others, idolizing weakness is not the best response. The biblical call is instead to find the holy between you and me, the holy that makes us both stronger than we can be without each other. As Martin Buber claimed, we are always dealing with the sacred *Thou* when we approach the other. How can we not be gentle when approaching the holy?

In these days of intense factionalism and demonizing partisanship, few of us are aspiring to gentleness. I think that is mostly because we’re afraid. We’re afraid because instead of thinking about the holy between us, we think about the “them” who are to blame for our problems. The last thing we want is to be gentle in dealing with them.

The harsh reality is that since the day Cain rose up against Abel, we have never been as careful with each other as we were created to be. The Bible’s first story of life outside paradise is about violent conflict between brothers, and we haven’t done much to improve on the plot. Pretty much every social problem we know has roots in the failure of the strong to be gentle with others.

But within our unjust history the gospel has embedded these redemptive words: “Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited . . . And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross” (Phil. 2:5–8). That’s not a story of the weak being victimized; it’s a story of the strong choosing humility. To live in Christ is to find this same gentle calling. Later in the same epistle, Paul says, “Let your gentleness be known to everyone” (4:5).

Those of us who find ourselves in positions of influence and privilege face a pressing calling: to be humble and gentle toward others. If we don’t give ourselves to the poor, not only will we fail to do the justice required of us, but we’ll also never find the Christ who is waiting to enter the holy space within our embrace.

February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 AA @ 8 pm	2 Groundhog Day	3 <u>WORSHIP @ 5 PM</u> <u>TIM MIZE</u>
4 <u>WORSHIP @ 11 AM</u> <u>Pastor Brad</u>	5 <u>Bible Study @ 1 pm</u> Council Mtg. @ 6pm	6 AA @ 7pm	7	8 AA @ 8 pm	9	10 <u>WORSHIP @ 5 PM</u> <u>PASTOR BRAD</u>
11 <u>WORSHIP @ 11 AM</u> <u>Pastor Brad</u>	12 <u>Bible Study @ 1 pm</u>	13 AA @ 7pm	14 <u>ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE @ 5PM</u> <u>Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day</u>	15 AA @ 8 pm	16	17 <u>WORSHIP @ 5 PM</u> <u>TIM MIZE</u>
18 <u>WORSHIP @ 11 AM</u> <u>Pastor Brad</u>	19 <u>Bible Study @ 1 pm</u> President's Day	20 AA @ 7pm	21	22 AA @ 8 pm	23	24 <u>WORSHIP @ 5 PM</u> <u>PASTOR BRAD</u>
25 <u>WORSHIP @ 11 AM</u> <u>Pastor Brad</u>	26 <u>Bible Study @ 1 pm</u>	27 AA @ 7pm	28			



If you have something you would like to put in the newsletter, please let us know by email, written letter, phone call or stopping by the office.