

***The Monthly Newsletter Publication of Triune Lutheran Church***  
***“Set Free to Serve One Another”***  
***March 2023***

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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.....Heidi Bailey  
Council Treasurer.....Jack Schwab

Siblings in Christ of Triune,

Greetings! On March 2, the wider church celebrates John and Charles Wesley, both of whom died in the late 1700's. For a bit of background, from our worship resource, *Sundays & Seasons*:

*These brothers led a revival originally intended to remain within the Church of England, one that involved frequent communion and advocacy for the poor. Except for a brief time in America, they worked in England. Charles was also a prolific hymn writer. After their deaths, their work led to the formation of the Methodist Church.*

And yes, even we Lutherans will celebrate the Methodists. Actually, my brother made the switch from growing up in the Lutheran church, like the rest of us in the family, to the good 'ole Methodists. He did so shortly after college, I believe. I'm not sure if there was any particular reason. Perhaps it was the convenience of location with this particular Methodist congregation base being close to home, especially since my brother isn't exactly the type to show up early, to put it mildly. But I know he also connected rather well with the pastor serving there at the time.

I first met that pastor for my brother's wedding. He almost looked like he was straight out of the times of the Wesley brothers, with an Einstein-like wavy hair, appearing as if he spent the majority of time writing theological treatises with enough wisdom to fill the entire church building and the surrounding neighborhood. Except, he was the gentlest soul, not in any way trying to make you impressed with however many years he poured into being a pastor and whatever other accomplishments (he ended up writing a book, oddly enough). But he did something during that wedding that I haven't seen done since, and so has stuck with me.



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**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



When it came time for the exchanging of rings between my brother and his now-wife, the pastor did a special blessing, but then he insisted on the rings being passed around not just to the several of us in the wedding party, but to absolutely everyone out in the pews, too. And trust me, my brother, would not be the type to usually go along with something like this. There would be worries about germs from someone randomly coughing all over them, people accidentally dropping them to the ground and falling into some heating vent, or what about a complete stranger being in the sanctuary to just come in and take them away. And yet, there the rings went...to absolutely everyone in the space.

The idea was for everyone there to have their own way of blessing the young couple. That as they eventually put their rings on each other's fingers, they would also be putting on our support, our encouragement, our love for them. Sometimes, we do something similar with the laying on of hands for young people as they affirm their baptism for Confirmation, or those who become ordained to serve as leaders in the church, or those who are moving as they depart that respective congregation, among other things. There is something to be said for feeling that support, that encouragement, that love.

Granted, not everyone is a fan of such touchy-feely-ness, and that's fine, but such sense of community cannot be overlooked during this season of Lent. It is a time that we sometimes make rather individual-focused because of certain things we want to refrain from or add on for forty days. Not that there's anything wrong with that, but with any modifications we wish to make along the entire journey of faith, God never expects we need to do so alone. This journey we call Lent is meant to be communal, too. After all, sometimes we feel God's support, encouragement, and love through our siblings in Christ, whether they be those of our home congregation, other Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians, or whomever else. We not only go with the Lord throughout these forty days and beyond, we go with all children of God, with all our worries, with all joys; all sustained by the support and encouragement and love brought to life on earth in fellow church members and complete strangers and ultimately in the Lord of us all. Thanks be to God, indeed!

In Christ,  
Pastor Brad



We ask you to keep the following siblings in Christ in your prayers:

Arlene Dress  
Niki Grigsby  
John Kurtz  
Dan Maldovan

Jill Maldovan  
Annie Slaughter  
Mardell Weiss  
Clara 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.



4<sup>th</sup> Emily Zvosec  
13<sup>th</sup> Meghan Schatt  
28<sup>th</sup> Matthew Schatt

***The Monday Discussion Group***

We will resume our discussions of  
*Disappointment with God.*  
New participants are always  
welcome!



# Lenten SOUP Suppers

For all the Wednesdays in March, at 6pm, you are invited to join our siblings in Christ of the Lutheran Church of the Covenant (19000 Libby Rd., Maple Heights) for soup suppers concluding with a short service, both downstairs in their fellowship hall. The worship will be based on a midweek Lent series of “Making Change,” as a reminder of all the changes made in our lives (some beyond our control), the constant not only remains God, but God’s steadfast love and grace. So, you are invited to join us for soup as well as the ultimate soul-soothing Gospel!



On the weekend of March 18/19, we will join the wider church in celebrating Joseph, guardian of Jesus. He is often overlooked in his role in shaping the Messiah through his youth, and so he serves as a reminder of the role we all play in shaping other children of God, whether our impact may be remembered or not. Regardless, we have a transformational Gospel to share with the world!



Last year, we invited our Triune family to complete a survey to help us discern what we and God envision for our ministry as a congregation. The overwhelming majority responded in continuing the quarterly ministry collection that we started before COVID emerged, when we collected items for Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry (specifically, for the men's shelter in Cleveland) and Lutheran World Relief, among other local and worldwide ministries. We know that when we join forces with other communities of faith near and far away, our impact for other children of God becomes magnified.

And so, it is during this season of Lent that our wider church of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) promotes one its most pivotal ministries to the world: ELCA World Hunger. For a bit of background, from their website:

*More than 820 million people – that's about 11 percent of people in our world today – are hungry. As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work.*

*Working with and through our congregations, in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands Lutheran churches overseas and other partners, ELCA World Hunger is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.*

#### *Hunger facts*

- *821 million people around the world – that's more than 1 in 10 – can't access the food they need to live active, healthy lives.*
- *According to the most recent estimates, 736 million people live in extreme poverty on less than \$1.90 per day. That's 10% of the world's population.*
- *At some point in 2017 (the most recent year available), more than 40 million people in the United States were unsure where their next meal might come from.*
- *39.7 million Americans were living in poverty in 2017. For a family of four, this means their annual household income was below \$25,094.*

And so, throughout the season of Lent, we will highlight the impact made by ELCA World Hunger, that many of us may not realize. It is a ministry that not helps those in Africa, Asia, and South America, but in many places throughout the United States as well. If you wish to support this ministry not only during Lent, a time of spiritual reflection and renewed commitment to discipleship, you may do so directly through their website:

[www.elca.org/worldhunger](http://www.elca.org/worldhunger)) or through your offering to Triune by simply designating “ELCA World Hunger.” We are all in this ministry of feeding bodies and souls together!

# MARCH 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  Lent Service @ 6 pm, Covenant	2  AA @ 8pm	3	4  WORSHIP <u>@ 5 PM</u>  TIM MIZE
5  WORSHIP <u>@11 AM</u>  SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT	6  Bible Study @ 1pm	7  AA @ 7pm	8  Lent Service @ 6 pm, Covenant	9  AA @ 8 pm	10	11  WORSHIP <u>@ 5 PM</u>  PASTOR BRAD
12  WORSHIP <u>@11 AM</u>  THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT	13  Bible Study @ 1pm	14  AA @ 7pm	15  Lent Service @ 6 pm, Covenant	16  AA @ 8 pm	17	18  WORSHIP <u>@ 5 PM</u>  TIM MIZE
19  WORSHIP <u>@11 AM</u>  JOSEPH, GUARDIAN OF JESUS	20  Bible Study @ 1pm	21  AA @ 7pm	22  Lent Service @ 6 pm, Covenant	23  AA @ 8 pm	24	25  WORSHIP <u>@ 5 PM</u>  PASTOR BRAD
26  WORSHIP <u>@11 AM</u>  FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT	27  Bible Study @ 1pm	28  AA @ 7pm	29  Lent Service @ 6 pm, Covenant	30  AA @ 8 pm	31	