



the Trinity Trumpet

MARCH 2025

The Parish Newsletter of Trinity Lutheran Church; Danville, Illinois

Every month I read a periodical titled *First Things*, a publication about religion and public life. The articles challenge my thinking and, at times, test my ability to understand the thoughts being expressed.

The November 2024 issue had an article about Taylor Swift, of all people. It spoke about how many of Swift's songs give voice to those who, like her, have experienced the pain, the heartache, the loneliness, and the disillusionment that are the fruits of the 1960's sexual revolution.

What I found most interesting was this statement near the end of the article, "Too many young women are being raised in a cult that we might call Christianity without Christ...For Swift and her friends, the cross is still there, but Christ is not on it, which means the suffering and the self-offering are theirs alone."

Imagine, if you can, a cross without Christ. Imagine a world where the only cross is the one you bear and the only suffering is the suffering you endure. Imagine a world where the only self-offering is the offering of yourself to your neighbor—a self-offering which, untaught by God's Commandments and unguided by Jesus' self-offering, can easily take a very dark and sinful turn.

That's why we observe Lent. While we indeed are given crosses to bear, we bear our crosses in the redeeming light of the cross Jesus bore not only alongside us, but for us.

While we indeed suffer, we do so knowing that Jesus is with us, the Jesus who suffered for us and whose suffering promises that someday our suffering will end forever.

While we are indeed called to offer ourselves in love to one another, we do so mindful of what that look likes. It looks like the

love of Jesus when He offered Himself for us on the cross, a pleasing sacrifice to God.

That is what St. Paul is talking about in Philippians 2, "Have this mind among yourselves which is yours in Christ Jesus...who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

There is no such thing as Christianity without Christ. A cross, my cross, your cross, any cross, is meaningless apart from the cross on which Jesus suffered and died for us.

We carry the cross of Jesus in our hearts even as we carry our own crosses, knowing that His cross led Him and now leads us onward to heaven and to a crown of life.

For the joy set before Him, Jesus endured His cross, and so we endure our crosses and the suffering that comes with them, knowing that joy awaits us in that place where He has gone before us.

We give ourselves to others because Jesus gave Himself for us. We love others because He first loved us.

Alone with our own cross, our own suffering, and our own, often misdirected, self-offering, we are left despairing and doomed. But with Jesus' cross before our eyes and the good news of His suffering and self-offering in our ears and hearts, we live! We live a new and everlasting life—forgiven of our sins, set free to take up our cross and follow Him, steeled to suffer for His name, loved into loving others and spending ourselves for their benefit. That's Christianity with Christ!

A VOICE FROM THE PAST

Herman Sasse, a faithful German pastor during World War II and an influential Lutheran theologian of the 20th century, penned these beautiful words:

By putting to death God brings to life. This we learn to believe under the cross of Christ. Our eyes see there only the suffering, the weakness, the agony of being forsaken by God, the disgrace, the crushing triumph of evil, and the victory of death. But hidden deep within it all is the great event of the reconciliation between God and mankind, the victory of the world's Redeemer..."

IN THE WORD: BIBLE STUDY AT TRINITY

<i>Class</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Topic</i>
-Cafeteria Class	Cafeteria	Sundays, 8:30 a.m.	Gospel of Mark
-Thursday Morning Class	Cafeteria	Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.	Book of Romans

OFFICIAL ACTS FOR FEBRUARY

Calls: 15 (11 HC)

BULLETS FROM BOPE (Board of Parish Education)

- Don't forget, Sunday school students are invited to join our day school students to sing for the Divine Service on Sunday, March 30. Parents, please sit with your children in the balcony on that Sunday with the teachers and day school students.
- Lent is a time to redouble our efforts to gladly hear and learn God's Word. Please take advantage of the midweek services and the Lenten devotions to do just that. If you have been slack in your attendance at Sunday school, Bible class, and worship, Lent is a time to "return" to those things.

SCHOOL MUSINGS

-Thank you to any who assisted with or attended the TLS Open House on Wednesday, February 26. Pray for more students and help make our school known to families within your community, your family, and your circle of friends.

-As mentioned above, March 30 is our next TLS Sunday. Hot breakfast will be served. A special Bible study will be offered. The Sunday school and day school students will sing. Finally, a door offering for the Haack Fund will be received.

THANK YOU BOARD OF FELLOWSHIP

A big thank you to Trinity's Board of Fellowship for arranging the "Game Afternoon" on Saturday, March 1. We appreciate the opportunity to come and spend time together as a congregation and the family of God in this place.

ADULT INSTRUCTION

Adult instruction is off and running. We had our introductory session on Tuesday, February 25. Consequently, it's not too late if you, or someone you know, wants to jump in on the class. At this point we have one person preparing to become a member of the congregation and several members who are reviewing what they were taught in the past. We meet on Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the outer school office area.

QUARTERLY VOTERS MEETING

At the recent voters' meeting on Sunday, February 16:

- Reports from various boards and officers were presented.
- Jeff Parish was elected to serve as Trinity's delegate to the Champaign Circuit Forum and the Central Illinois District Convention.
- The voters approved a motion to secure a \$50,000.00 loan from the Church Extension Fund to cover the immediate cost of maintenance and repairs to the church and school facilities.

ALL THINGS LENT

Color: The color for Lent (which means "spring") is purple—the color of repentance.

Lenten Services:

- Lent begins on Ash Wednesday with a Divine Service. Included in the service is the imposition of ashes—a cross of ashes traced on our foreheads. We are reminded that we are "dust and to dust we shall return." We are also reminded that Jesus has redeemed us from our death and from our dusty graves.
- Lenten Vespers services are conducted each Wednesday of Lent following Ash Wednesday. The preaching theme is "Holy Week Happenings." All the Lenten midweek services (Ash Wednesday and the Lenten Vespers) begin at 6:30 p.m. and are preceded by a supper served at 5:00 p.m.
- The April newsletter will contain information about the Holy Week services.

Lenten Practices—Public and Private:

- The metal crucifix on the altar is covered in purple cloth and the Paschal candle is removed from the chancel. The parish hallway is adorned with a cross draped in purple as well as crayon mosaics that tell the story of Lent & Holy Week.
- The Gloria in Excelsis is omitted from the Divine Service. The Te Deum is replaced by a hymn paraphrase of the Benedictus in the Matins service. The "alleluias" in every service are saved up for Easter Sunday.
- Lenten Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries titled "Servant of the Lord" are available for additional devotional opportunities in Lent. Hard copies are available from the church or can be found in a variety of formats at lhm.org/lent.
- Some people "give up" something for Lent as a reminder that Jesus gave up His life for us.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME IS BACK!

Set your clocks AHEAD one hour on Saturday, March 8, before you go to bed.

TRINITY'S MISSION STATEMENT: The purpose of Trinity Lutheran Church is to proclaim Jesus Christ to our members, our community, our world, and to the next generation.

THE VALUES OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH ARE: Strong Biblical preaching and teaching; our Lutheran heritage; fellowship in faith and love toward one another; bringing Christ's mercy in Word and deed to the community; and our Lutheran day school.

TUNE INTO THE RADIO BROADCAST EVERY SUNDAY on WITY, 980 AM or 99.5 FM and listen to The Lutheran Hour at 10:00 a.m. and Trinity's church service at 10:30 a.m. You may also listen to Trinity's service again at 10:30 p.m. on Sunday evening.

WORSHIP ANEW celebrates the new life all believers have in Jesus with a 30-minute broadcast service. Christ's love is shared through weekly Scripture readings, favorite hymns, prayers, and a pastor's message that reveals God's grace and truth. View every program at www.WorshipAnew.org or tune in Sunday mornings on channel 49 WCIX Springfield at 7:30 a.m., channel 50 CW at 8:00 a.m., or channel 2 WTWO Terre Haute at 8:00 a.m. Eastern time.

PRAY FOR THESE TRINITY MEMBERS: David Mourer & daughter, Morgan; Jonathon Mourer; Mandy Mourer & daughter, Lydia; Terry & Gwen Mourer; Abby Muehl; Adam & Kassidy Muehl & children, Charlotte, Benjamin, & Daniel; Alex Muehl; Paul Muehl; Phil & Susan Muehl; David & Andrea Munoz & children, Nate & Lilyana; Elaina Murphy & children, Cody & Baylee; Megan Murray; Janet Myers; Tom Myers; Jason Nelson; Layne Nesbitt; Candace Orlea; Ashley Orlea; Carrie Owens & daughter, Maysa; Jeff & Teresa Parish; Brian & Karina Parke; Michelle Pasley; Tyler Pasley; Guy & Julie Patterson; Jeremiah Patterson; Zack Patterson & children, Serenity & Maverick; Cliff & Carol Peak; Manny Perez Jr; Ximena Perez; Betsy Perkins; Merna Perrin

BETHANY BARKS

Spring comes this month! We have had some really cold weather, but better temps are on the way. One sure sign of spring is when Danville Gardens opens for business! As always, Bethany will be doing a fundraiser at Danville Gardens on **Wednesday, April 30, from 2:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.** Mark your calendars please and support the Comfort Dog Ministry while getting beautiful things for your home and yard. There will be more information in the future. P.S., the date is very close to Mother's Day also.

THE DEADLINE for submissions for the April newsletter is Friday, March 21, 3:30 p.m.

SERVING IN THE LORD'S HOUSE IN MARCH:

Altar Guild: Susan Muehl and Abby Muehl

Sound Schedule:

March 2 - Laura Hutchison
March 9 - Dave Tobeck
March 16 - Teresa Parish
March 23 - Chris Kienast
March 30 - Bob Hubner

Usher Captains:

March 2 - Eric Westfall
March 9 - Jerry Jochim
March 16 - Dave Tobeck & Doug Hubner
March 23 - Terry Mourer & Cliff Peak
March 30 - Mike Klepp

Communion Assistants

March 2 - Mark Gale and Brad Pollert
March 9 - Brian Park and Sam Sanders
March 16 - Mark Hamm and Phil Muehl
March 23 - Matins
March 30 - Cliff Peak and John Thompson

LWML-EUNICE NEWS (information for ALL women in the congregation)

The Eunice Society will meet on Thursday, March 13, at 12:30 p.m., in the cafeteria. We welcome all ladies of the congregation to join us. There is no obligation to become a member.

Mites -

The March Prayer Calendar is included in this mailing. Mites are collected the first Sunday of each month at either entrance, then sent to LWML-Central Illinois District for distribution to the various mission grants, both for our District LWML as well as for National LWML. For more information, view these websites – www.lwml-cid.org or www.lwml.org



Return to the LORD, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding
in steadfast love...

Joel 2:13, NRSV

MARCH

This is a monthly prayer guide for your daily use. Each day as you pray, please feed your Mite Box in support of district and LWML Mission Grants. As you lift up the countries and mission grants listed, pray that the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ would be heard by those who live there or are served by our mite offerings. Each country listed has been a recipient of a mission grant from LWML at some time since 1942. What a joy it is to bring these prayers to our Father's listening ears!



1. For a clean heart (Psalm 51:10).
2. For LWML Mission Grant #6.
3. For China, one of the 83 countries where LWML has supported a grant.
4. For the work you do.
5. For things that make you smile or laugh (Psalm 68:3).
6. For the Lutheran Women in Mission Vice President of Communication.
7. For the country of Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast).
8. For the LWML Mid-South District.
9. For trials that strengthen and refine you (James 1:2-4).
10. For your basic needs.
11. For the country of Cuba.
12. For wisdom (James 1:5).
13. For government and world leaders.
14. For church leaders.
15. For the Czech Republic.
16. For the LWML Gulf States District.
17. For your family.
18. For the city/community where you live.
19. For the Dominican Republic.
20. For friends who are nonbelievers.
21. For LWML Mission Grant #7.
22. For your coworkers.
23. For the country of Ecuador.
24. For the persecuted.
25. For your enemies (Matthew 5:44).
26. For the country of Egypt.
27. For the missions of your church.
28. For those in nursing home facilities.
29. For those who clean and maintain your church.
30. For those facing life changes.
31. For those with serious illness.



March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <i>The Transfiguration</i> 8:30 Bible Class/SS 9:30 DIVINE SERVICE 11:00 Jr Confirmation	3	4 9:00 Knitting & Crocheting 4:30 Adult Instruction 6:00 Choir	5 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 8:30 Chapel 5:00 Lenten Supper 6:30 DIVINE SERVICE w/ imposition of ashes	6 9:30 Bible class 5:00 Yoga	7 TLS No School	8
9 <i>Lent 1</i> 8:30 Bible Class/SS 9:30 DIVINE SERVICE 11:00 Jr Confirmation	10	11 9:00 Knitting & Crocheting 4:30 Adult Instruction 6:00 Choir	12 8:30 Chapel 5:00 Lenten Supper 6:30 Lenten Vespers	13 9:30 Bible class 12:30 Eunice 5:00 Yoga 6:00 Elders	14 TLS Noon Dismissal	15
16 <i>Lent 2</i> 8:30 Bible Class/SS 9:30 DIVINE SERVICE 11:00 Jr Confirmation	17	18 9:00 Knitting & Crocheting 4:30 Adult Instruction 6:00 Choir	19 5:00 Lenten Supper 6:30 Lenten Vespers	20 9:30 Bible class 5:00 TLS Board 5:00 Yoga	21	22
TLS SPRINGBREAK						
23 <i>Lent 3</i> 8:30 Bible Class/SS 9:30 MATINS 11:00 Jr Confirmation	24	25 9:00 Knitting & Crocheting 4:30 Adult Instruction 6:00 Choir	26 8:30 Chapel 10:30 Word at the Villas 5:00 Lenten Supper 6:30 Lenten Vespers	27 9:30 Bible class 5:00 Yoga 6:00 Council	28	29
30 <i>Lent 4/ TLS Sunday</i> 8:30 Bible Class/SS 9:30 DIVINE SERVICE 11:00 Jr Confirmation	31					