

# Trinity Tidings

January 25, 2024

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January 28, 2024

## Following Worship and prior to the annual meet- ing, stay for a Trinity-Get- Involved-Ministry Fair With Potluck

Come and see how the Spirit is working here at Trinity. This is a great opportunity to contemplate how you can join in and bring your time, energy, ideas, and/or talents to what is going on behind the scenes at Trinity. Sign up at the Info Center to bring a dish to pass. Join your church family and celebrate how God's Work, Our Hands is being accomplished here at Trinity.

Our 2024 Council will be installed on Sunday, January 28. Their terms begin February 1, 2024. Please lift them up in prayer.

Karen Acker - President + Worship & Music  
Becca Jagla - Vice-President + Support & Service  
Dan Wesenick - Secretary + Media Outreach  
Kirk Van Dreele - Treasurer + Financial Resources

Terry Lathrop - Building & Grounds  
Pat Osmuss - Stewardship  
Kelly Lehl - Community Meals  
Jen Monty - Education & Youth  
Morgan Monty - Youth Rep



## January 2024

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
| 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |

Sunday, January 28

- Adult Bible Study 8 AM
- Worship 9 AM
- Annual Meeting, Ministry Fair, & Potluck 10 AM
- Sunday School 10 AM
- No Story Time

Monday, January 29

Tuesday, January 30

- Community Meals Packing 5 PM

Wednesday, January 31

- Community Meals Distribution 5 PM
- Confirmation Class 6:30 PM

Thursday, February 1

- Bible Study 9 AM
- Quilting 10 AM
- Comfort Crafts 5:30 PM
- Carport Clutch 6 PM

Friday, February 2

Saturday, February 3

Sunday, February 4

- Adult Bible Study 8 AM
- Worship 9 AM
- Sunday School 10 AM
- Story Time 10 AM

Click [here](#) for the most current calendar.

Click [here](#) for worship.

Office Hours:  
8 AM - 12 noon  
Monday - Thursday  
Other times by appointment

Email or call with your request.

## Prayers & Praises

### Healing:

- Megan Pearson & baby Evelyn - niece of Allison & Peter Kurth
- Millie Batzler - friend of Amy Kuehl, recovering from surgery
- Trista Jo Westphal - health concerns
- Brian Miller - health issues
- Ginny Halverson - friend of Lehl's, recovering from a stroke
- Peter H. - friend of Dyreson's, leukemia
- Patty Dyreson - recovering from surgery
- Julie Smith - daughter of Jean Smith, recovering from transplant surgery
- Mary Snyder - recovering from surgery
- Shelley Henke - sister of Woody Haag, recovering from surgery
- Leslie Larson - uncle of Marta Wesenick, cancer
- Mike Loppnow - cancer
- Beth Cochran - friend of Dan Wegner, health concerns
- Kaden Wegner - grandson of Michael Wegner, health concerns
- Pastor Dean Desilet - friend of Pastor Chuck, health concerns
- Steve Gohman - nephew of Terry & Lois Wegner; cousin of Dan and Kat
- Dixie Hill - health concerns
- Jill Maus - sister-in-law of Denise Knudsen, cancer
- Adam Lehmann - health concerns
- Dawn Haag - cancer

## Community Meals – January 2024



Our first community meal is on **Wednesday, January 31, from 5 to 6 pm**. Sloppy joe sandwiches will be served. Please help us spread the word! If you know of someone who could benefit from this meal, please share with them the details of this meal. If you know of someone

who could benefit from this meal and does not have transportation, we encourage you to drive through the distribution line on January 31 and pick up meals for them and then deliver the meals to them. Thank you for this service!

Donations of Sloppy Joe recipes will be accepted through Sunday, **January 28**. There are freezer bags located in the Narthex outside of the church sanctuary for these donations. Please place the Sloppy Joe in the upright freezer in the storage room in the Fellowship Hall or the freezer in the downstairs kitchen.



The Community Meals ministry will have a booth at this Sunday's "Get Involved Ministry Fair". We invite you to visit our table! We will have special brown bags for those who visit our table.



**Trinity Bingo!**  
**After church on Feb. 4**  
**Win prizes!**  
**Fun and fellowship!**  
**All ages and skill levels**

Bingo isn't the same without your prize donations! Do you have some re-gifting items to donate for Bingo? To make the party a success we will need some small prizes donated. Bingo will be held for about an hour after church service on February 4. Please drop off in the bin outside (clearly labeled for Bingo) or in the church office.

**Thank you!**  
**Support and Service committee**





Scheduling worship leaders for March, April, and May will begin soon. Are you currently volunteering but need or want to change your status in some way? Do you have Sundays when you know you will be unavailable or Sundays when you know you'd like to be scheduled? Are you not currently volunteering, but would like to share your gifts as a lector, usher, communion assistant, slides presenter, or live streamer? Please notify the church office by Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.

*Note: there will be sign up sheets for the Easter Season.*

## Explore Verse Mapping

We are gathering at Trinity on Tuesday,  
February 6 and February 20  
6 -7:30 pm.

Allison Kurth and Kathryn Moser will be hosting a method of Bible verse study that will help us to dig deep into God's word. Come and join us for this experience. Bring your Bible. Study sheets and examples will be provided. We will work together on mapping a verse.

Sign up at the Info Center.



Thanks to your valued input, we have our Trinity T-shirts ready to order. Please see the display in Narthex. Be a supporter, evangelizer, proud member of Trinity and order your T-Shirt ASAP!! Questions? Contact Becca Jagla [beccaarndt@gmail.com](mailto:beccaarndt@gmail.com) or Sue Krecjarek [skrejcar@gmail.com](mailto:skrejcar@gmail.com).

Small - XLarge - \$11.00  
XXLarge - \$13.00  
3XLarge - 5XLarge - \$14.00



Are you looking for a volunteer experience that directly helps your neighbors? Make the Ride Happen is still currently searching for volunteer drivers. This is a great opportunity to volunteer on your time and as much or as little as you would like. Our volunteers provide rides to people in the community to medical appointments, the grocery store and other essential needs. Not only will you helping people get to where they need to go you will also be helping overcome the barrier of isolation that can be caused by the lack of transportation. I guarantee that when you volunteer with us you will have great conversations and possibly build new friendships with our riders. If this sounds like a volunteering opportunity that you would be interested in learning more about, please contact Shannon Zwitter directly at [920-979-0314](tel:920-979-0314) or our call center at [920-225-1719](tel:920-225-1719). [Shannon.zwitter@lsswis.org](mailto:Shannon.zwitter@lsswis.org) [www.maketheridehappen.org](http://www.maketheridehappen.org)



Thank you for your continued support of the  
New London Community Cupboard!  
There is an ongoing need for donations.  
Please drop off your donations in the bin  
outside of the church doors.

Trinity walkers can go indoors for the winter!  
Come to Trinity during office hours (Monday - Thursday; 8:00 am - 12:00 noon)  
to safely walk. There is a place to sign in and designated shoes are required.

Walk in the Fellowship Hall only or head down to the lower level  
and walk that hallway and fellowship room as well.

Come alone or bring a friend! Let's stay in  
shape and stay safe walking this winter!

Sponsored by  
Support and Service Committee





## Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

### First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

*Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.*



**The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet ... you shall heed such a prophet.**

Deuteronomy 18:15, NRSV

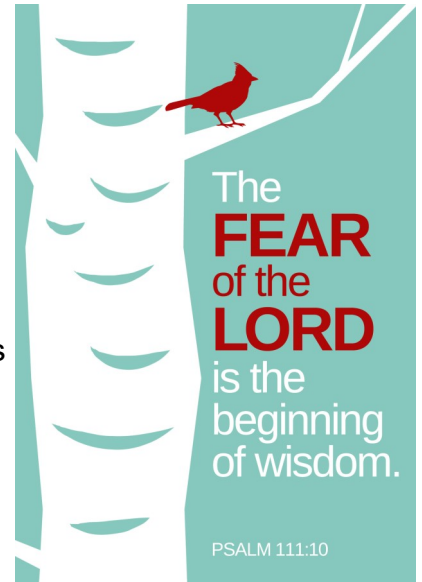
[Moses said:] <sup>15</sup>The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup>This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." <sup>17</sup>Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what

they have said. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. <sup>19</sup>Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup>But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

### Psalms 111

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

<sup>2</sup>Great are your works, O LORD,  
pondered by all who delight in them.  
<sup>3</sup>Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,  
and your righteousness endures forever.  
<sup>4</sup>You cause your wonders to be remembered;  
you are gracious and full of compassion.  
<sup>5</sup>You give food to those who fear you,  
remembering forever your covenant.  
<sup>6</sup>You have shown your people the power of your works  
in giving them the lands of the nations.  
<sup>7</sup>The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;  
all of your precepts are sure.  
<sup>8</sup>They stand fast forever and ever,  
because they are done in truth and equity.  
<sup>9</sup>You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;  
holy and awesome is your name.  
<sup>10</sup>The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.



### Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

*Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.*

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup>but anyone who loves God is known by him.

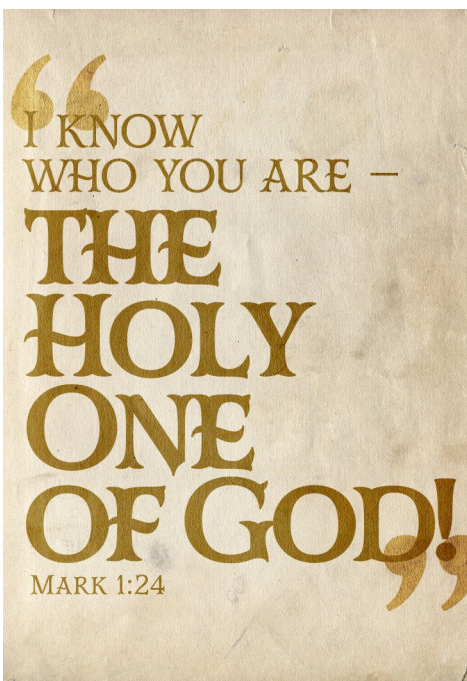
<sup>4</sup>Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." <sup>5</sup>Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—<sup>6</sup>yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

<sup>7</sup>It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup>“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup>So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. <sup>12</sup>But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

### **Gospel: Mark 1:21-28**

*Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.*

<sup>21</sup>[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup>They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup>and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup>They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” <sup>28</sup>At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.



### **The Way of the Cross**

56 years ago today, on January 28th, 1968, a monumental event occurred.

I was baptized at Messiah Lutheran Church in Racine, Wisconsin.

This is yours truly with his parents. It was also my parents' 12 wedding anniversary.



I was baptized by my grandfather, The Rev. Paul V. Nelson, a pastor in the old Swedish American Augustana Synod. Actually most of the world did not notice.

It was not in the news.

I don't remember that day as I was only 4 weeks old. But something happened.

Something that I cannot explain.

God began a relationship with me that continues today.

When I look at my life and why I believe in Jesus it comes down to God planting a seed in me that grew by being nurtured by so many people that God has brought into my life.

I do not take credit for my faith.

It has never been about me.

Nothing for me to brag about.

There have been times on my life where I have had powerful experiences in my life where I felt a power greater than myself, and while have explored the truths of Christianity and it makes sense to me intellectually, ultimately I have to ascribe my faith in Jesus to the work of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

God chose me, not the other way around.

It has always been God at work in my life.

Jesus himself did not like to take credit for his work, especially in Mark's gospel.



He did not seek fame and fortune, and downplayed it even though he was becoming a celebrity. Jesus was indeed the Son of God, but he did not come to seek power and glory for himself. Mark is known for “the messianic secret.” He came to give his life on the cross as a ransom for many. Mark had been called “The cross gospel.” “The passion story with an extended introduction.”

Mark never lets his readers forget that all of Jesus’ teachings and miracles need to be understood in light of the cross.

It is, as Luther points out, a way of calling things what they really are.

Getting real.

Jesus was all about service, sacrifice, and love, and to follow him means we need to be about the same.

Later on in Mark the climax comes when Peter proclaims him as the Christ, the Messiah and then Jesus tells the disciples that he will be rejected and crucified and rise again.

After Peter challenges him on this Jesus is clear that to follow him means taking up our crosses and walking in his path of self-discipline.

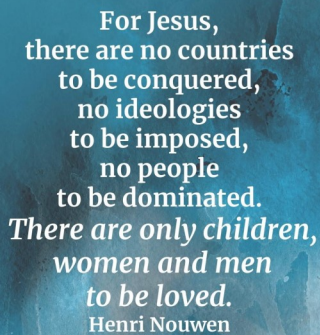
Following him is not going to be easy.

Any of us who have experienced much suffering or have a hard time trying to live like Jesus will have Mark’s gospel as a friend.

For Mark’s gospel emphasizes Jesus’ overcoming suffering by going through it.

When we suffer we know Jesus has already been there.

He’s the real deal.



For Jesus,  
there are no countries  
to be conquered,  
no ideologies  
to be imposed,  
no people  
to be dominated.  
*There are only children,  
women and men  
to be loved.*  
Henri Nouwen

TerryHershey.com

In today’s text this is one example in Mark of how Jesus is not self-promoting, does not seek recognition, but silences demons when they identify him as the holy one of God. He is, from the beginning of his ministry in Galilee, self-effacing even as his reputation grows. He did not need

to establish power and dominance through this exorcism but rather he is self-aware throughout the Gospel of Mark that he is on his way to the cross. If that seems difficult, all we have to remember is that it’s the dying, crucified Jesus in Mark for whom the sun grows dark, for whom the curtain of the temple is ripped open, and whom even a centurion proclaims “the Son of God” (Mark 15:33–39).

It is, moreover, spoken by a Jesus who wants nothing to do with political power and might and good publicity.

He was not about fame and fortune.  
He came to serve not to be served.

Because of this we are reconciled to God.

We do not have to earn our salvation.

We are all baptized into his death.

Each of us are chosen, named, and claimed by him solely by his grace.

We do not have to try to prove ourselves worthy of him, but follow in his footsteps.

We do not need to worry how we measure up to the world.

His way of love and service is what conquered the evil forces that separate us from God.

His death on the cross and his resurrection have done the work already.

We are simply called to love as Jesus did.

Today is our annual meeting.

An opportunity for us to look at ourselves and celebrate what God has been doing here but also to discern together what God may be calling us to be in the future.

How can we continue to follow Jesus, the way of love?

That is the way of the cross.

It is not about us.

It’s all about Jesus.

The way of the cross is not easy, but it is worth it! Amen.

## Serving at worship on Sunday

### **Ushers**

Jack Jaeckle, David Newton

### **Lector**

David Newton

### **Communion Assistant**

Cindy Wolford

### **Slides**

Ron Flohr

### **Livestream**

Randy Cleveland

### **Altar Guild**

Dawn Haag, Dawn Hess