

Trinity Tidings

February 1, 2024

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR: ANGELA KUECHLER
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Trinity Bingo!
After church on Feb. 4
Win prizes!
Fun and fellowship!
All ages and skill levels

Trinity's 2024 Council

Kelly Lehl, Jen Monty, Kirk Van Dreel, Becca Jagla
Dan Wesenick, Morgan Monty, Terry Lathrop, Karen Acker
Not pictured: Pat Osmuss



ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP



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 12th.

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

February 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		

Sunday, February 4

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

Monday, February 5

Tuesday, February 6

Wednesday, February 7

- WIC 9 AM
- Confirmation Class 6:30 PM

Thursday, February 8

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

Friday, February 9

Saturday, February 10

Sunday, February 11

- 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

Prayers & Praises

Email or call with your request.

Healing:

- Keith Krueger
- Genie Shaw - friend of Dixie Hill, cancer and other health concerns
- Mary Jo Driessen - friend of Dan & Marta Wesenick, cancer
- Erin Larson - recovering from surgery
- Paul Bock - recovering from surgery
- Betty Anderson - friend of Amy Kuehl
- Megan Pearson & baby Evelyn - niece of Allison & Peter Kurth
- 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
- 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



ECUMENICAL ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

First Congregational UCC New London

Pancake Dinner – 6:00 P.M.

Worship Service – 7:00 p.m.

First Congregational UCC will be hosting a special Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service on February 14th. This will be a blessed way to begin the observance of Lent as neighbors and friends from St. John's Episcopal Church, Trinity Lutheran ELCA, New London United Methodist Church, and First Congregational UCC gather together in worship. Pastor Steve Savides from First Congregational will lead the service and Pastor Chuck Thompson from Trinity will be our preacher. The 7 p.m. service will feature communion and the imposition of ashes and will be preceded by a 6 p.m. Pancake Dinner. A free will offering will be taken for the dinner.



Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024

4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

\$10 Per Person

CONTESTANTS WILL BE:

Reigning Champ American Legion Auxiliary Unit 263

American Legion Post 263 New London

American Legion Post 55 Hortonville

AMVETS Post 45 New London

AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary #45 New London

Boy Scouts Troop 59 New London

Winner will get the traveling trophy for a year and prize money.

Each person will get the chance to try each chili and they will get a bowl of their favorite.

BEVERAGES AND DESSERT WILL BE PROVIDED

The Joy of Giving for February is dedicated to Missionary Support.

Each year, ELCA missionaries serve in more than 40 countries around the world, invited by global church partners.

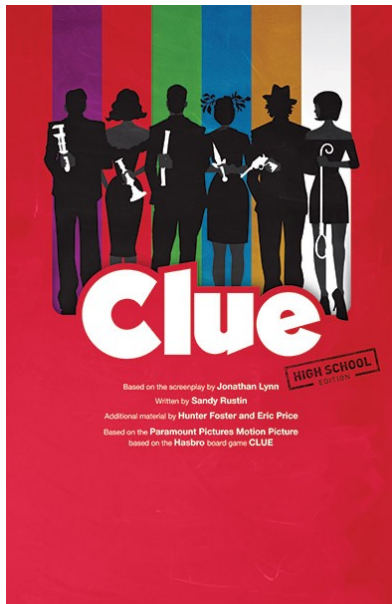
- Young adults, passionate about their faith and eager to serve.
- Pastors, with a call to teach and preach beyond parish walls.
- Doctors, with a call to practice where their skills are needed most.
- Relationship builders, givers and receivers, and catalysts for change.



No matter where or how they serve, every one of these missionaries needs our prayers, support and gifts to succeed in their work. This support connects us directly to these missionaries. We help to make their life-changing ministry happen. Join them in God's amazing work. Let us help grow the Lutheran church around the world.

Please show your support, giving online or using your Joy of Giving envelope.

Proclaim His glory to the nations, His mighty deeds to all peoples. (Psalm 96:3)



New London High School Presents the Spring Play Clue

**Trinity members can sign up to go as a group
on Sunday, Feb 18th, at 2:00 PM.**

- ♦ **Payment due by Sunday, February 11**
- ♦ **The cost of tickets is \$16 each.**
- ♦ **Tickets can be picked up at church on Feb 18th after worship unless other arrangements are made.**

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 beccarndt@gmail.com or Sue Krecjarek skrejcar@gmail.com.

Small - XLarge - \$11.00

XXLarge - \$13.00

3XLarge - 5XLarge - \$14.00

Payment due by Sunday, February 11

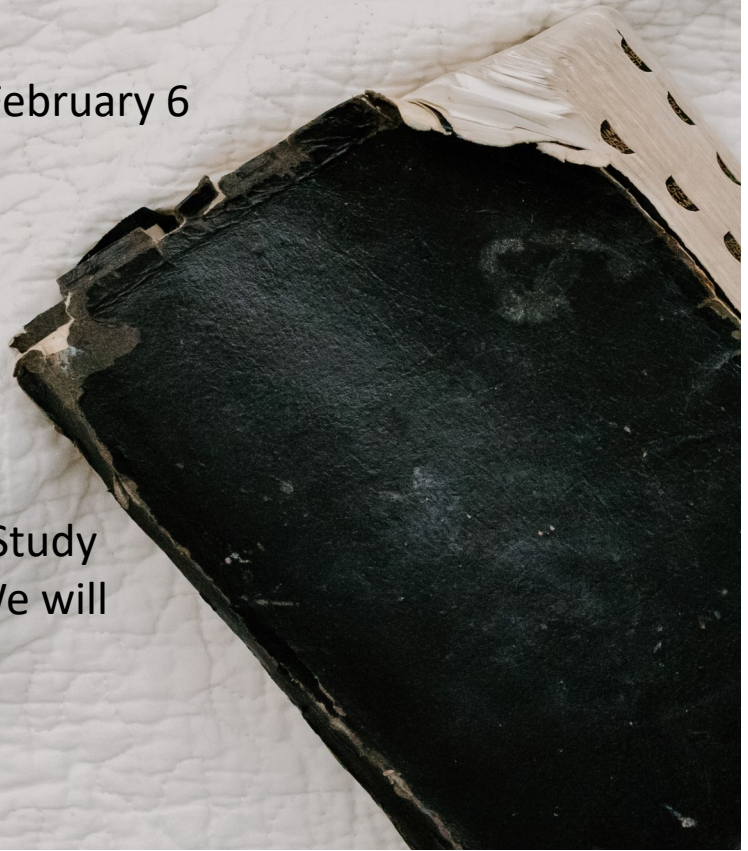


Explore Verse Mapping

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.



CROSSWAYS
CAMPING MINISTRIES

Crossways Family Camps offer full week, half-week, or weekend programs to share formative faith experiences with intergenerational communities. Experience these programs with family, as you define it - families of all shapes and sizes are welcome. We offer a special invitation for families to participate in Autism Community Family Camp or GrandKid Camp. GrandKid Camp is for grandparents and grandkids to share the camp experience together. Camp Jr offers an opportunity for our youngest campers to bring a grownup to camp for a one-day event. Visit CrosswaysCamps.org/family and reserve time on your calendar today!

Lenten mid-week worship will be Wednesdays at 6:30 pm at Trinity. This year will be a Round Robin with other ELCA pastors. When someone else is preaching here, Pastor Chuck will be preaching in one of their churches.

2024 Lenten Series - Sing with All the Saints

February 21
February 28
March 6
March 13
March 20

Faithful in Prayer
Perseverance with Endurance
Dying and Rising with Christ
Striving for Justice

Pastor Chuck
Pastor Tauna Roth, Immanuel Zittau
Pastor Erik Roth, Christus Greenville
Pastor Mark Laatsch, Grace Winchester
Pastor Chuck



Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

First Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations
of the earth?

²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;

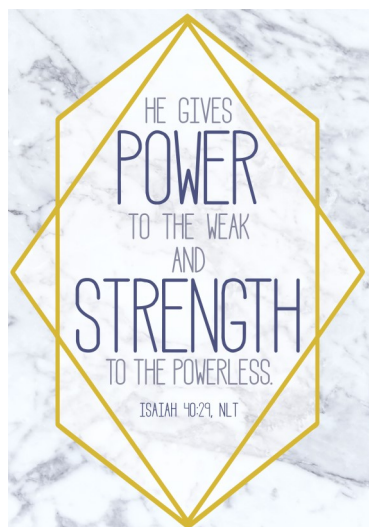
²³who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal?
says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on
high and see:

Who created these?
He who brings out their
host and numbers them,
calling them all by
name;
because he is great in
strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.



²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?
²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew
their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

Psalms 147:1-11, 20c

¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our
God!

How pleasant it is to
honor God with
praise!

²The LORD rebuilds
Jerusalem,
and gathers the ex-
iles of Israel.

³The LORD heals
the brokenhearted
and binds up their
wounds.

⁴The LORD counts the number of the stars
and calls them all by their names.

⁵Great is our LORD and mighty in power;
there is no limit to God's wisdom.

⁶The LORD lifts up the lowly,
but casts the wicked to the ground.

⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make music upon the harp to our God,

⁸who covers the heavens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass
to grow upon the mountains.

⁹God provides food for the cattle
and for the young ravens when they cry.

¹⁰God is not impressed by the might of a horse,
and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,

¹¹but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD,
in those who await God's steadfast
love. ^{20c} Hallelujah!



Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.



¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission.

¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may

make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and

they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Serving at worship on Sunday

Ushers

Cindy Wolford, Woody Haag

Lector

Cindy Wolford

Communion Assistant

Bill Krejcarek

Slides

Mark Moser

Livestream

Dawn Haag

Altar Guild

Steph Friebohle, Angie Seehafer



Need A Lift?

Kent Nerburn once wrote:

There was a time in my life twenty years ago when I was driving a cab for a living. It was a cowboy's life, a gambler's life, a life for someone who wanted no boss, constant movement and the thrill of a dice roll every time a new passenger got into the cab.

What I didn't count on when I took the job was that it was also a ministry.

Because I drove the night shift, my cab became a rolling confessional. Passengers would climb in, sit behind me in total anonymity and tell me of their lives.

We were like strangers on a train, the passengers and I, hurtling through the night, revealing intimacies we would never have dreamed of sharing during the brighter light of day. I encountered people whose lives amazed me, ennobled me, made me laugh and made me weep.

And none of those lives touched me more than that of a woman I picked up late on a warm August night.

I was responding to a call from a small brick fourplex in a quiet part of town. I assumed I was being sent to pick up some partiers, or someone who had just had a fight with a lover, or someone going off to an early shift at some factory for the industrial part of town.

When I arrived at the address, the building was dark except for a single light in a ground-floor window.

Under these circumstances, many drivers would just honk once or twice, wait a short minute, then drive away. Too many bad possibilities awaited a driver who went up to a darkened building at 2:30 in the morning.

But I had seen too many people trapped in a life

of poverty who depended on the cab as their only means of transportation.

Unless a situation had a real whiff of danger, I always went to the door to find the passenger. It might, I reasoned, be someone who needs my assistance. Would I not want a driver to do the same if my mother or father had called for a cab?

So I walked to the door and knocked.

"Just a minute," answered a frail and elderly voice. I could hear the sound of something being dragged across the floor.

After a long pause, the door opened. A small woman somewhere in her 80s stood before me. She was wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pinned on it, like you might see in a costume shop or a Goodwill store or in a 1940s movie. By her side was a small nylon suitcase. The sound had been her dragging it across the floor.

The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets. There were no clocks on the walls, no knickknacks or utensils on the counters. In the corner was a cardboard box filled with photos and glassware.

"Would you carry my bag out to the car?" she said. "I'd like a few moments alone. Then, if you could come back and help me? I'm not very strong."

I took the suitcase to the cab, then returned to assist the woman. She took my arm, and we walked slowly toward the curb. She kept thanking me for my kindness.

"It's nothing," I told her. "I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother treated."

"Oh, you're such a good boy," she said. Her praise and appreciation were almost embarrassing.

When we got in the cab, she gave me an address, then asked, "Could you drive through downtown?"

"It's not the shortest way," I answered.

"Oh, I don't mind," she said. "I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice."

I looked in the rearview mirror. Her eyes were glistening.

"I don't have any family left," she continued. "The doctor says I should go there. He says I don't have very long."

I quietly reached over and shut off the meter.

"What route would you like me to go?" I asked.

For the next two hours we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator. We drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they had first been married. She had me pull up in front of a furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl. Sometimes she would have me slow in front of a particular building or corner and would sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing.

As the first hint of sun was creasing the horizon, she suddenly said, "I'm tired. Let's go now."

We drove in silence to the address she had given me. It was a low building, like a small convalescent home, with a driveway that passed under a portico. Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. Without waiting for me, they opened the door and began assisting the woman. They were solicitous and intent, watching her every move. They must have been expecting her; perhaps she had phoned them right before we left.

I opened the trunk and took the small suitcase up to the door. The woman was already seated in a wheelchair.

"How much do I owe you?" she asked, reaching into her purse.

"Nothing," I said.

"You have to make a living," she answered.

"There are other passengers," I responded.

Almost without thinking, I bent and gave her a hug. She held on to me tightly.

"You gave an old woman a little moment of joy," she said. "Thank you."

There was nothing more to say.

I squeezed her hand once, then walked out into the dim morning light.

You never know how much of a difference an act of kindness can make.

To Christians, every kind act can be a glimpse of resurrection.

Last week we focused upon the way of the cross: how in Mark's gospel everything Jesus does is in light of the cross.

His actions of love, compassion, and service led him ultimately to his death.

But that is where his victory over the forces of evil occurs.

Today, however, we get a glimpse of resurrection.

For Jesus' story does not end with the cross.

Today we heard the story of how Jesus heals Simon's mother in law. He "lifts her up by the hand."

The word, translated by the New as "lifted her up" is the word, "raised" — "he raised her up." Later on at the empty tomb the young men tell the women, "But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." The ending of the gospel sends the disciples (and the readers) back to Galilee where Jesus performed his powerful deeds of healing and feeding, such as the healing of Simon's mother in law. Readers of Mark are sent back to Galilee where they will remember Jesus' ministry of resurrection. The verb to "raise up" is used in several healing stories in Mark. The healing of Peter's mother in law is the first resurrection story in the gospel.

Mark's gospel invites us to look for experiences of resurrection in our own everyday lives.

Where do we find resurrection today?

Has someone performed an act of kindness to you that made a world of difference in your life?

Reached out to you or said the right words at just the right time for you? That is a glimpse of resurrection.

In my ministry I have expressed repeatedly that when people are hurting and grieving sometimes just sitting with them and listening can make a world of difference.

People may not remember what I said at a funeral, but will remember that I was there.

As with the cab driver, when we reach out to someone else it helps us as well.

This is Christ at work.

Our crucified and risen Lord is still alive and well.

As with Simon's mother in law, he lifts us up by the hand when we need it so that we can lift others up.

This is resurrection.

That is what makes the world goes round.

Amen.

