

# Trinity Tidings

**February 15, 2024**

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
709 W BECKERT RD  
NEW LONDON, WI 54961  
[WWW.TRINITYNEWLONDON.COM](http://WWW.TRINITYNEWLONDON.COM)  
[TRINITY.NEWLONDON@GMAIL.COM](mailto:TRINITY.NEWLONDON@GMAIL.COM)  
920-982-5833

REV. DR. CHARLES THOMPSON, PASTOR 920-273-5105;  
[PASTOR.TRINITYNEWLONDON@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PASTOR.TRINITYNEWLONDON@GMAIL.COM)  
SECRETARY: AMY VAN DREEL [TRINITY.NEWLONDON@GMAIL.COM](mailto:TRINITY.NEWLONDON@GMAIL.COM)  
CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR: ANGELA KUECHLER  
[FAMILYFAITH.TRINITYNEWLONDON@GMAIL.COM](mailto:FAMILYFAITH.TRINITYNEWLONDON@GMAIL.COM)

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	Faithful in Prayer	Pastor Chuck
February 28	Perseverance with Endurance	Pastor Tauna Roth, Immanuel Zittau
March 6	Dying and Rising with Christ	Pastor Erik Roth, Christus Greenville
March 13	Striving for Justice	Pastor Mark Laatsch, Grace Winchester
March 20	St. Patrick	Pastor Chuck

Devotionals will be available on Facebook and YouTube on Wednesdays during Lent beginning with Ash Wednesday.

## 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 18

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

Monday, February 19

Tuesday, February 20

- Verse Mapping 6 PM
- Council 6:30 PM

Wednesday, February 21

- Soup Supper 5:30 PM
- Lenten Worship 6:30 PM

Thursday, February 22

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

Friday, February 23

Saturday, February 24

Sunday, February 25

- 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

Who doesn't like a warm bowl of soup?

This Lenten season, prior to each midweek service, a soup supper will be served. Trinity's council/committees/groups will be providing the meals and invite you to come to the church fellowship hall at 5:30pm. There are sign-ups at the Info Center for anyone who would like to contribute to the meal. The meals are free with no freewill offering. We just want you all to come and be filled, body and soul.



## Prayers & Praises



**Email or call with your request.**

- Pastor Paul Thompson - brother of Pastor Chuck, surgery
- Sue Luba - recovering from surgery
- Carla Fulcer - friend of Sue Luba, cancer
- 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
- Brian Miller - health issues
- Trista Jo Westphal - health concerns
- 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
- 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
- Dixie Hill - health concerns
- Jill Maus - sister-in-law of Denise Knudsen, cancer
- Adam Lehmann - health concerns
- Dawn Haag - cancer

## Personal Care Kits through Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Collection during Lent

Cleanliness may not actually be next to godliness, but it certainly helps a person feel more human. When families find their homes destroyed, or must flee for their safety, soap and a towel rarely make the cut for what they can carry. Arriving in a refugee camp or other place of safety, they are scared, vulnerable and dirty from the travel. The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit provide much-needed self-care, critical germ fighting, and the chance to regain dignity amidst situations of fear and uncertainty.

**You will find bags in the narthex that have some items in them already. A list is attached so you can complete the kit. Once all those bags are gone, you can just start fresh with the list.**

**Completed personal care kits can be dropped off in the narthex.**

**Sue Krejcarek, LWR coordinator**



## Next community meal is Wednesday, February 28, from 5-6 pm.

Grandma Clara's hot dish will be served on 2/28. This delicious and hearty meal is made up of hamburger, fresh vegetables, and beans in a savory tomato base.



Donations needed for the January meal are:

- Healthy snacks (e.g. raisins, craisins, dried fruit, granola/protein bars, jerky, etc.)
- Desserts (packaged or homemade)

**PLEASE NO NUTS and NO ITEMS REQUIRING REFRIGERATION.** Place donations in the bin outside of church.

## 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)**



Global Mission



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

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.




# ALL RISE!


## THE NORTHEAST WISCONSIN PASSION PLAY 2024

*An original, uplifting dramatic musical based on the ministry, teachings,  
Passion and Resurrection of Our Lord*

**7:00 pm March 21, 22, 23**

**1:00 pm March 23\*, 24**

\* An American Sign Language interpreter will be provided  
 at the 1:00 pm performance on March 23.

Hearing Loop equipped. 

Adult \$14 • Senior Citizen \$12 (Age 60 & above) • Student \$9 (College & younger)

Opening night discounts: Adult & Senior \$10 • Student \$6

Ticket prices do not include service fees on credit card purchases.

These fees are established by Showtix4u, our box office vendor, and are nonrefundable.

**[www.newpassionplay.org](http://www.newpassionplay.org)**

**(920) 733-8840**

**Xavier Fine Arts Theatre Box Office Hours: Noon to 3:00 pm**

Through March 6    Mondays & Wednesdays

March 11-22    Monday - Friday

*Also open one hour before each performance*

**Xavier Fine Arts Theatre • 1600 W. Prospect Ave • Appleton, WI**

**A Program of the St Francis Xavier Catholic School System**



**In Loving Memory  
of  
Bonnie Bach**



**the Meat Block**  
from our family to your table



"Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

I've heard these words every Ash Wednesday that I can remember.

It has always been a somber day.

I do not know about the rest of you, but Lutherans are good at being somber.

Lutherans have always emphasized the theology of the cross: the hidden God is revealed in the cross as well as in suffering.

Sometimes as a kid church felt like suffering.

I am grateful that my parents (mom was a preacher's kid) instilled in us reverence for God and the importance of worship but it also felt legalistic at times. Both of my parents came out of the old Swedish Augustana Lutheran tradition, very "high church," where there was a lot of reverence, beautiful liturgy, but not much emotion in worship.

You dressed in your Sunday best every service and sat still.

While they slightly loosened up as years went by I don't think my parents ever got totally used to people laughing or clapping in worship.

I must admit that my heart was not always in it.

I was there to please my parents.

I worshiped out of duty and obedience.

It took a while to take my faith to really take heart.

Then I went in to Army Basic training as I had joined The Army Reserve as a Chaplain Assistant.

We had a choice on Sundays: clean the barracks or go to church.

Guess what I chose!

The funny thing was the Drill Sergeants, who were not churchgoing people, told us "I better hear you singing out! And remember, you can give your heart to Jesus, but your rear end belongs to me!"

I believed but my heart was as not totally into it.

Isn't it amusing that this is also Valentine's Day?

Today is about the heart.

Romantic love is stressed but it also is an opportunity to share some love with anyone we care about.

Growing up in elementary school we had to give valentines to everyone so that no one would be left out, even if you did not like a person.

It is actually appropriate for today because Ash

Wednesday is ultimately about God's love for us.

In the text we just heard from Joel we see that God is more interested in our hearts than in our forced actions or our rituals, or going through the motions. Joel says, "Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your HEARTS and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing."

Joel, as is the case with most of the prophets, goes back and forth between judgment and promise.

Sometimes God sounds very harsh.

The reason is that God so desires to be in relationship with his people that it breaks his heart when they forget about him and worship other gods.

My Old Testament professor described God's anger as comparable to a jealous lover.

"Is there anything worse than a jealous lover?" he would say.

God wants our hearts.

He wants us to know him intimately.

Know his heart.

God wants our lives to be about him.

God desires us to live our lives trusting in him and allowing him to use us to share his love.

We can turn to God who is "gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."

God can use any of us.

The Triune God is a god of relationship, a loving relationship lived out in us.

God can use us even when we are not realizing it.

In my first parish there was a high schooler who was contemplating suicide that I was totally unaware of but a sermon I preached on not giving up helped her. I had no idea. It was not about me or my inspiring sermon.

Sometimes when I think I have a great sermon I get no response, and other times when I thought I bombed it touched someone.

You never know.

You never know how God can use each one of us.

Triune God relationship lived out in us.

It's not about us, it's about God!

Tonight we receive ashes to be reminded of our need for God (repentance) and that we are beloved children of God.

When we receive the ashes in the sign of the cross we see the incredible depth of God's love for us.

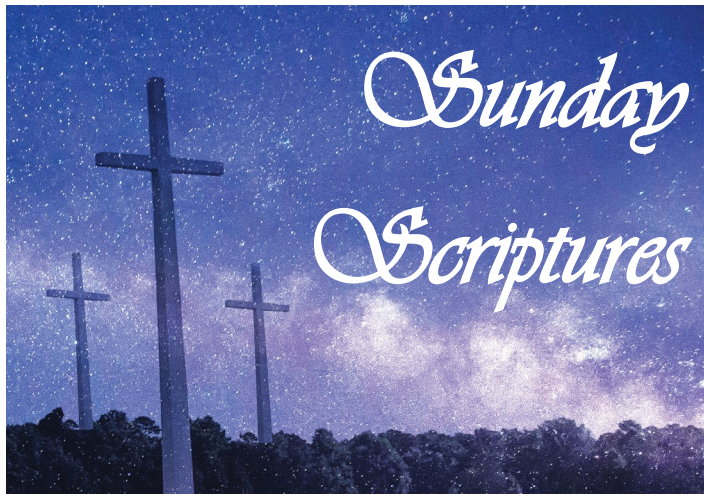
God loves us even when we are not the most lovable.

Jesus died for us and rose again so that we may know God personally and allow his love to flow through us.

We can trust that God loves us straight from the heart!

Amen.





## First Sunday in Lent

### First Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

*Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.*

<sup>8</sup>God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." <sup>12</sup>God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

<sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."



### Psalm 25:1-10

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD,  
I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.  
<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>Show me your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me your paths.

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;

remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>You are gracious and upright, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.

<sup>10</sup>All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness

to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.



### Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

*As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.*

<sup>18</sup>Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in



which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

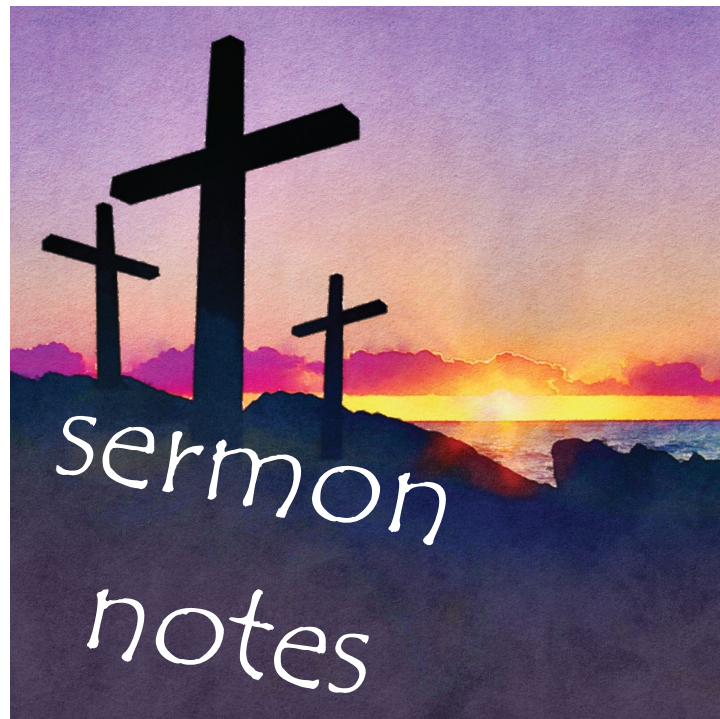
### **Gospel: Mark 1:9-15**

*The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.*

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

<sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."



### **Disruption**

A new preacher at the local church walked into the auditorium of His new church. He thought it would be best to move the piano from the right side of the stage to the left side of the stage, so he moved it. Soon after he was fired for the disruption caused by the new placement of the piano. Five years later he returned to the same church to visit with the minister who stepped in when he was fired. They walked into the auditorium and there was the piano on the left side of the stage. The once fired preacher asked "How did you get the piano to the left side of the stage? They fired me for moving it." The reply from the other minister was plain. "I came in every day and moved the piano to the left three inches." (James Chandler, Sermon Central).

Sometimes slow and steady wins the race.

I was taught before I began my first call not to push too much change too fast. In my ordination sermon the Bishop said, "Figure out who in the heck they are before you try to change them. Or I'll put it this way: Don't move the baptismal font and the American flag the first Sunday you get there."

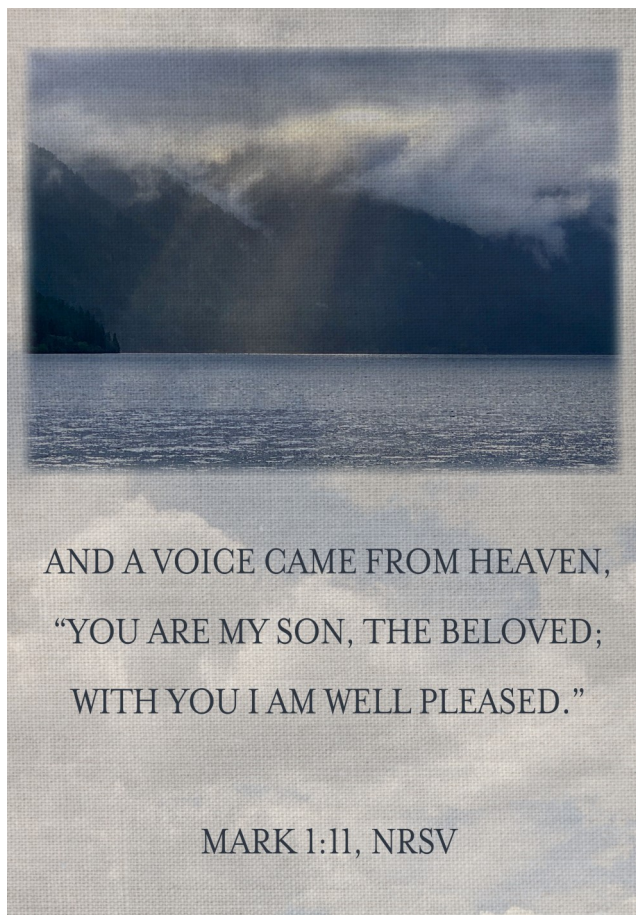
And in my experience slow and steady change usually works best.

Although in my 2nd parish I moved the communion altar away from the wall very soon after I started.

I simply asked why it was that way and they had no answer.

So one night we moved it.

Some changes are easy, others are not.



In general, we do not like our lives disrupted.

Jesus, however, came to be disruptive.

He came into the world to shake things up.

In Mark especially Jesus does not waste time.

There's a sense of urgency in Mark right from the start.

Mark likes the word "immediately."

We have been bouncing around the last few weeks in the lectionary, but now as we start Lent we are back at Jesus' baptism.

This is described as a spectacular event.

"And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'"

Notice the heavens are "torn apart."

God is doing something powerful here.

The Son is being anointed to start on a mission to change the world.

Then immediately he is sent out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

He has the power to overcome evil.

There's no time to waste in Mark.

Jesus is always on the go.

He rocks the boat, disrupts the religious establishment and we know how it all ends.

His disruption of the status quo brought salvation to all!

Jesus is still disruptive today.

He is divisive.

Have you seen all of the controversy over the "He gets us" Super Bowl ads?

I did not see them but have read all kinds of critiques as well as defenses of them.

Politically both the right and the left claim Jesus as their own.

In an election year this is especially true.

Russell Moore, an Evangelical theologian and author writes that some pastors have told him that they been criticized when preaching on the sermon on the mount, about loving your enemies, turning the other cheek, not repaying evil with evil. When the pastors told the critics that they were quoting Jesus

Christ directly they were told "that does not work anymore." Wow!

Jesus is offensive to some.

Others make Jesus into their own image, uses him to further their own agendas.

What about us?

We need to let go and let Jesus work.

Stay focused on our crucified and risen Lord.

Trust that he knows what is best for us.

Let him change what needs to be changed and trusting in his timetable.

Remember that we are on God's time.

Trust that God knows what is best for us, what we need to change and when.

Sometimes God changes things quickly, sometimes slowly.

During the pandemic we had to make changes fast.

Now we need to trust Jesus to show us where to go from here.

Remember that we are on God's time.

God knows what's best for us. Amen.

## **Serving at worship on Sunday**

### **Ushers**

Cody Simonis, Kirk Van Dreel

### **Lector**

Dawn Haag

### **Communion Assistant**

Amy Kuehl

### **Slides**

Laura Thompson

### **Livestream**

Ron Flohr

### **Altar Guild**

Steph Friebohle, Angie Seehafer