

Trinity Tidings

February 22, 2024

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

**For the February meal, Trinity is serving
Grandma Clara's Hot dish from 5-6 pm.**

If you know someone who could benefit from this meal, please direct them to Trinity's parking lot on Wednesday, February 28. If the person does not have transportation, please consider waiting in line and delivering the meal to them.



Lenten mid-week round robin worship will be Wednesdays at 6:30 pm at Trinity. When one of the other pastors is here, Pastor Chuck will be at one of their churches.

2024 Lenten Series - Sing with All the Saints

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.



**Prior to each Lenten midweek service,
a free soup supper will be served by Trinity's
council/committees/groups at 5:30pm. Sign up at the
Info Center if you would like to contribute to a meal.
Come and be filled, body and soul.**

The soup supper on Wednesday, February 28, coincides with the distribution of Community Meals. We ask that anyone coming for the soup supper park in the lower parking lot or on the west side of the upper parking lot. Thank you!

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 25

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

Monday, February 26

Tuesday, February 27

- Community Meals Packing 5 PM

Wednesday, February 28

- Community Meals Distribution 5PM
- Soup Supper 5:30 PM
- Lenten Worship 6:30 PM

Thursday, February 29

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

Friday, March 1

Saturday, March 2

Sunday, March 3

- 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.

- 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



Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday, March 24. 9 AM

Maundy Thursday, March 28, 6:30 PM

Good Friday, March 29 1:30 PM (ecumenical at Trinity)
and 6:30 PM

Easter Sunday, March 31, 6:30 AM and 9:00 AM

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. Join them in God's amazing work.

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





Gregory the Great

How many of you enjoy sunrises or sunsets?

I know I do.

When I see them I marvel at God's creation.

I cannot help but think that these cannot happen by accident.

Someone or something must be behind it.

Psalm 19:1 "The heavens declare the glory of God."

I am reminded that there is something bigger than us.

When I see the sky I am reminded of the infinite universe beyond it.

We cannot comprehend it all.

I am humbled by how tiny we are in comparison to a vast universe.

God, the creator, is greater than it all!

Gregory the great recognized this. He lived in the 6th century in Rome.

Is known as one of the greatest popes ever.

He knew that there was more to life than materialism.

He acknowledged God as the source of all things.

He was born into a wealthy family, son of a politician.

Turned off by greed and selfishness.

Turned to a monastic life of prayer and total devotion

to God.

Turned family mansion into a sanctuary.

Loved scripture.

Eventually was reluctantly elected pope.

Saw himself as "servant of the servants."

This has stuck with popes ever since.

He knew it was not about him: it is all about God, the creator and source of all things.

As pope worked for peace at time of war.

Revised liturgy and worship to make it more prayerful.

Serving the poor was a priority. Poor only got ground once a month from the government so Gregory had monks deliver food daily.

He would not eat until poor were fed.

Invited a dozen poor to dine with him.

He was not a perfect person but recognized that God is greater than all of us and we are to live our lives focused on him.

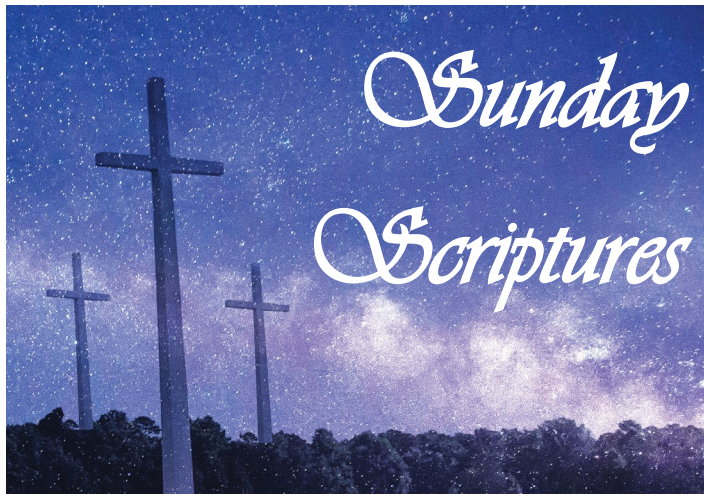
(Play Gregorian chant music)

He understood what was said Isaiah:

"For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Along with Gregory may we also devote ourselves to this awesome God, the creator of the universe who came to us in Jesus Christ to die on the cross for our sins and rise again so that we are in everlasting relationship with God!





Second Sunday in Lent

First Reading: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Psalms 22:23-31

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

²⁴For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them;

but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

Let those who seek the LORD give praise!

May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

³⁰Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,

saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

Second Reading: Romans 4:13-25

Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham...



through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

Romans 4:13, NRSV

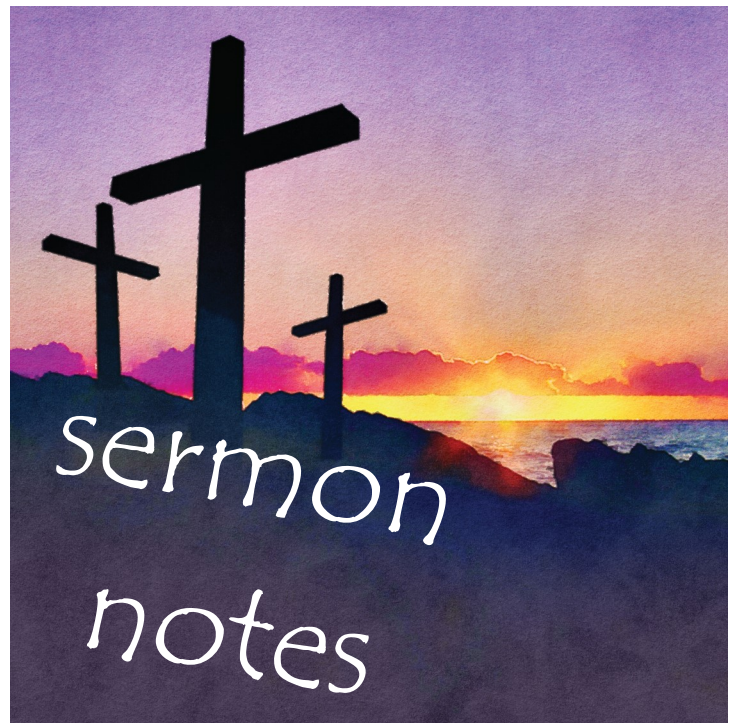
of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Gospel: Mark 8:31-38

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."



What's so funny?

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Johnny was staring up at the large plaque that hung in the foyer of the church. The seven-year-old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the boy, and said quietly, "Good morning son."

"Good morning pastor" replied the young man, focused on the plaque.

"Sir, what is this?" Johnny asked.

"Well son, these are all the people who have died in the service," replied the pastor.

Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque.

Little Johnny's voice barely broke the silence when he asked quietly, "Which one sir, the 8:30 or the 10:30 service?"

Want a couple more?

How about some Scandinavian humor?

Torkel and Hilda were going to meet up with Ole and Lena at an event in Minot, North Dakota, at noon. Torkel and Hilda arrived on time, but there was no sign of Ole and Lena. About four o'clock they finally arrived and they both looked exhausted.

Torkel was exasperated. "Vhat in da vorld took you so long to get here?"

"Vell," Ole sighed, "about every 25 miles ve saw dese signs dat said CLEAN RESTROOMS, so ve did."



Finally, how about a German one?

A man was walking down the street with a long pipe on his shoulder when somebody came up to him and said 'Excuse me, are you a Pole Vaultier?'

He replied, 'No I'm German, but how did you know my name?'

Ok, that's enough.

A little laughter is good for the soul but it might be best to quit while I'm ahead.

There is nothing wrong with poking fun at ourselves, not taking ourselves so seriously.

Humor can be healthy as long as it is not used simply to humiliate others or put them down.

There is a difference between laughing with or laughing at someone.

Today we see Abraham lying on the ground laughing at God's promise.

God showed up and repeated the covenantal promise to Abraham that his descendants would be exceedingly numerous. And Abraham—now 99 years old, with a 90-year-old wife—“fell on his face and laughed.” Abraham rolled on the floor laughing. Abraham simply did not believe that God could or would keep the promise. But here is the thing about promises: What matters is whether the promise-maker can and will keep the promise. God, miraculously, was able to keep the promise. And God, faithfully, did keep the promise. And the promise wasn't just to Abraham, but particularly it was to Sarah. God was not content to leave Sarah out of the covenant. And so 90-year-old Sarah gave birth to Isaac. Abraham and Sarah were both rolling on the floor laughing.

It is no coincidence that Isaac's name means

“laughter.”

Sarah and Abraham were no longer laughing at God, but along WITH him!

They trusted in God and were able to enjoy their relationship with him.

We can laugh along with God too.

Abraham and Sarah had their doubts about God's promises, but God turned their disbelieving laughter into laughter of joy.

Sometimes God's promises seem laughable, especially as we live in a dark world with so many worries and challenges: wars, endless politics, climate change, family conflicts, addictions, illnesses.

God promises to make all things right in the end.

In Jesus' death and resurrection

God promises to be with us always, even to the end of time.

He invites us to join him along with Abraham and Sarah and all of the faithful.

God has always kept his promises.

Jesus always has the last laugh.

Amen.

Serving at worship on Sunday

Ushers

Ron & Joy Flohr

Lector

Ron Flohr

Communion Assistant

Jayne Murphy

Slides

Myla Immel

Livestream

Tom Vigil

Altar Guild

Steph Friebohle, Angie Seehafer