

Trinity Tidings

February 8, 2024

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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.

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 11

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

Monday, February 12 - **Office Closed**

- Ruth Circle 7 PM

Tuesday, February 13

- Financial Resources 6:30 PM

Wednesday, February 14 - **Ash Wednesday**

- Pancake Dinner, UCC 6 PM
- Ecumenical Worship, UCC 7 PM

Thursday, February 15

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

Friday, February 16

Saturday, February 17

Sunday, February 18

- 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

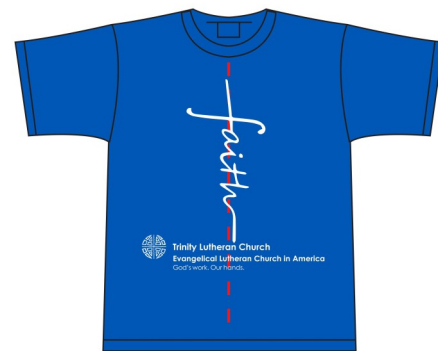
Prayers & Praises

Email or call with your request.

Healing:

- Family & friends of Marge Gaurke, wife of late Pastor Don Gaurke, as they mourn her passing
- 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
- 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
- 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

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?



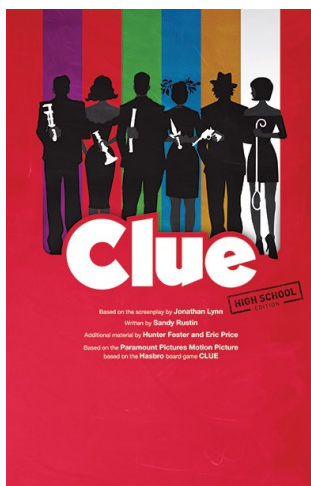
Contact Becca Jagla beccaarndt@gmail.com or Sue Krecjarek skrejcar@gmail.com.

Small - XLarge - \$11.00

XXLarge - \$13.00

3XLarge - 5XLarge - \$14.00

Payment due by Sunday, February 11



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 February 18th after worship unless other arrangements are made.

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.



Trinity Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



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		Pastor Chuck

A photograph of several pumpkins and autumn leaves, with the text "In case you were wondering?" overlaid in a large, orange, outlined font.

In case you were wondering?

Yes, there is going to be another Harvest Dinner and craft sale this year in October!! Start planning/making your specialty items for the sale. We are just waiting for the Packer schedule to come out so we can pick our Sunday in October.

TW-ELCA
Support and Service Committee

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)

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**



Thank you to everyone who donated prizes and who came to play!

The items created by
Comfort Crafts were
blessed during worship
this past Sunday...



...and the afghans were
delivered to Mission of
Hope House this week.

Prayer As I Create...

Good and Gracious God,
I ask your guidance and blessing.
Bless my hands,
That I may stitch, knit
weave, crochet
A mantle of love
A garment of peace
A wrap of protection
For the one who will receive it.
Bless and anoint this child of yours
that he or she may be comforted
And know your healing touch.
Amen.



Sunday Scriptures



Transfiguration of our Lord

First Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12

Today's reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.

¹Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

Elijah
ascended
in a
whirlwind
into
heaven.

2 Kings 2:11, NRSV

⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you."

So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." ¹⁰He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Psalm 50:1-6

¹The mighty one, God the LORD, has spoken;

calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

²Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,
God shines forth in glory.

³Our God will come and will not keep silence;

with a consuming flame before, and
round about a raging storm.

⁴God calls the heavens and the
earth from above

to witness the judgment of the people.

⁵"Gather before me my loyal followers,
those who have made a covenant with me and
sealed it with sacrifice."

⁶The heavens declare the rightness of God's cause,
for it is God who is judge.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

The spotlight of Christian ministry is not on the people who carry out ministry but on the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as God made light shine at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.

³Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of dark-



ness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

Mark's gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to Jesus' followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God's glory manifest in the beloved Son.

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.



Transfiguration 2024

Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah!”

Peter was like a kid in a candy store.

He, along with James and John, got to see quite a spectacle!

Jesus all of a sudden changes appearance.

The text says, “his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them.”

Then the legendary figures of Moses and Elijah show up.

Wow!

Peter can't get enough of it.

It's hard to imagine.

How would we react?

Text says he blurted out the first thing on his mind as he did not know what to say.

Of course, as is often the case, he is putting his foot in his mouth.

When he suggests that three booths be built, he is putting Jesus in the same category as Moses and Elijah as a prophet.

He totally misunderstands what is going on.

That is why God's voice kind of reprimands him.

“This is my Son, the beloved, listen to him!”

Jesus is clearly distinguished from these prophets.

The reason for their presence is not clear.

Moses often represents the law and Elijah the prophets, so Jesus is possibly being presented as the fulfillment of both.

On any case this experience is meant to illustrate that Jesus is much more than one more prophet.

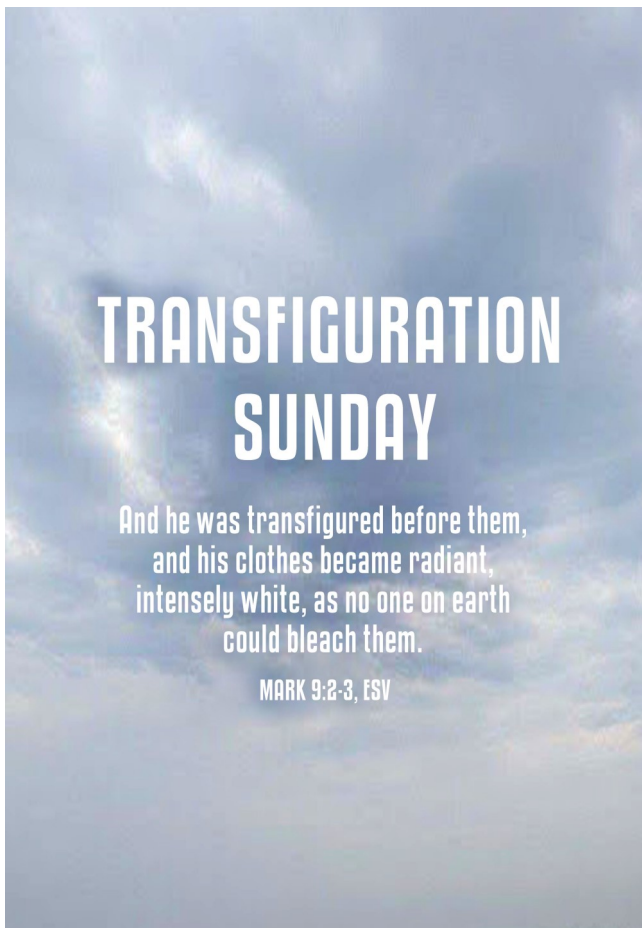
He is the divine Son of God.

God is telling Peter in so many words, “focus on the moment.”

Peter does not get it.

Peter was getting ahead of himself.

He was blowing this opportunity to see Jesus for who he really is: The Son of God who came to be our Savior through his death and resurrection.





This experience is another glimpse of the future resurrection.

Peter and the others are invited to take in God's presence NOW in Jesus.

The cloud that overshadows them represents the presence of God.

Focus on the moment, God is telling them.

I must admit I sometimes struggle with this.

Often my mind jumps to what happens next.

It is challenging for me to stay in the moment.

I can get caught up in "what is next?" or "what if this happens?"

When I do this I can miss out on what God is trying to show me or tell me or teach me at that moment.

What might it look like to live in the moment?

Here's one example:

In his "One Minute Uplift" newsletter, Rick Ezell tells this story: "A university professor tells of being invited to speak at a military base in December and their meeting an unforgettable soldier named Ralph.

Ralph had been sent to meet him at the airport; and after they had introduced themselves, they headed toward the baggage claim. As they walked down the concourse, Ralph kept disappearing — once to help an older woman whose suitcase had fallen open, once to lift two toddlers up to where they could see Santa Claus, and again to give directions to someone who was lost. Each time he came back with a big smile on his face.

"Where did you learn to do that?' The professor asked.

"Do what?' Ralph said.

"To be so helpful and considerate to others.'

"Oh,' Ralph said, 'during the war, I guess.'

"Then he told the professor about his tour of duty in Vietnam, about how it was his job to clear mine-

fields, and how he watched his friends blow up before his eyes, one after another. 'I learned to live between steps,' he said. 'I never knew whether the next one would be my last, so I learned to get everything I could out of the moment between when I picked up my foot and when I put it down again. Every step I took was a whole new world, and I guess I've just been that way ever since.'

"A grace-filled life is living between the steps. It understands the remarkable gift of today."

Living between the steps. This is a helpful image to me.

With so many distractions I need to focus upon what's in front of me.

For instance, I sometimes need to put this thing (phone) down and focus on who's in front of me.

Every moment we have us a gift from God.

When we are having mountaintop experiences we can enjoy them.

And when we are having a tough day we can be reminded that God is with us.

God is present in every moment.

We can live one day at a time.

Live between the steps.

Our crucified and risen Lord walks with us every step of the way,

Amen.

Serving at worship on Sunday

Ushers

Clay Marsh, Mark Moser

Lector

Dawn Haag

Communion Assistant

Dawn Haag

Slides

David Newton

Livestream

Terry Lathrop

Altar Guild

Steph Friebohle, Angie Seehafer