

Trinity Lutheran Church, ELCA

Trinity Tidings

March 12, 2026

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, March 15

Adult Sunday School 8AM

Worship 9AM

Story Time/Sunday School 10AM

Trinity Times 10AM

Monday, March 16

Wolf River Quilters 10AM

Tuesday, March 17

Council 6:30PM

Wednesday, March 18

Soup Supper 5:30PM

Midweek Lenten Worship 6:30PM

Confirmation Class 6:30PM

Thursday, March 19

Adult Bible Study 8:45AM

Quilting 10AM

Comfort Crafts & Friends 6PM

Friday, March 20

Saturday, March 21

Sunday, March 22

Adult Sunday School 8AM

Worship 9AM

Story Time/Sunday School 10AM

Trinity Times 10AM

The Sunday School Students will be collecting snack-sized apple sauce and fruit cups for Community Meals during the Children's Message on Sunday, March 15th. Please support them by bringing your donations that day.



March Grab & Go Meal

The next Grab & Go meal is on March 25 from 5-6 pm. Meal participants will be served a hot dog, along with a beverage and brown bag. The brown bag contains applesauce/fruit cup, 2 snacks, dessert, fresh fruit, and condiments.

Trinity Lutheran Church, ELCA

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Trinity Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday

8AM - 12noon

To be removed from this mailing, please contact the church office.



Lent and Holy Week Schedule

Midweek Lenten Schedule

Lenten Soup Suppers; 5:30PM

Midweek Lenten Worship; 6:30PM

Wednesday, February 25

Wednesday, March 4

Wednesday, March 11

Wednesday, March 18

Wednesday, March 25

Palm Sunday Worship

Sunday, March 29; 9:00AM

Palm Sunday Brunch 10:00AM

Maundy Thursday Worship

Thursday, April 2; 6:30PM

Good Friday Worship

Ecumenical at UCC; Friday, April 3; 1:00PM

Worship at Trinity; Friday, April 3; 6:30PM

Easter Sunday Worship

Sunday, April 5; 6:30AM

Sunday, April 5; 9:00AM

Prayers & Praises

Call or email with your requests

Julie - friend of Kelly Newton, housing insecurity

Richard Croke - stroke

Ron Schnelle - brother-in-law of Pat Grossman, inoperable brain tumor

Barb Lehl - health concerns

Susan Millard - recovering from surgery

Billie Olson - cancer

Mary Snyder - health concerns

Annie Krueger - mother of Samantha Kable, cancer

Stephanie Nelson - cousin of Marta Wesenick, recurrent ovarian cancer

John Schremp - family friend of Marta Wesenick, failing health

Azim & Hamida and their families

Leonard Blank - father of Trista Jo Westphal

Jodie Laatsch - cancer

Jill Willner - cancer

Bonnie Robertson - aunt of Dixie Hill, hospice

Patricia Erb - sister of Kelly Lehl, stroke and cancer

Pastor Dean Desilet - friend of Pastor Chuck, cancer

Jerry Carls - friend of Tom Luba, cancer

Paul Dobrydnia - friend of Tom Luba, recovering from a stroke

Jaxson Empey - nephew of Woody Haag

Juliette Ort - granddaughter of Lisa & Donn Howard; leukemia

Sarah Hughes - relative of Terry & Lois Wegner, cancer

Dixie Hill - health concerns

Adam Lehmann - health concerns



Help decorate our church for Easter!

**We invite you to order a flower in honor of
or in memory of someone.**

\$22 for a lily

\$22 for a kalanchoe

\$20 for a begonia

**Sign up at the info center and
complete the order form.**

Order deadline Sunday, March 22.



March's Joy of Giving is Mission of Hope House

Mission of Hope's Resiliency Center is a 14 bed peer supported women's living environment that offers programs and services designed to help our clients break free from poverty, substance abuse disorder and homelessness. We are here to give those most in need in our community a hand up to a brighter future. Our programs are structured in a way to directly address access to housing, mental health concerns and substance use disorder. We aim to improve the wellbeing of the communities we serve!

Mission of Hope also operates The Bridge, a resale store that is open to the public; proceeds from sales support The Mission of Hope House's programs and, therefore, benefit residents of Waupaca County and surrounding rural central Wisconsin. As we grow awareness about this store, we can also grow awareness about the issues that these sales are supporting.

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



Thank you, Samaria,
for visiting with us!

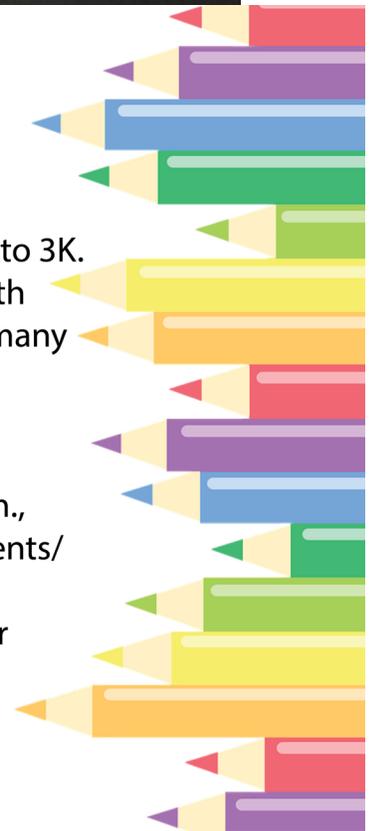


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March Sunday School

- **March 1, 8 & 15:** Story time will be held in the library for children ages birth to 3K.
- **March 1:** Sunday School supports the church today at 10 a.m. by helping with indoor spring cleaning. Students will work on light housekeeping duties as many hands make light work.
- **March 8:** Sunday School at 10 a.m.
- **March 15:** Sunday School at 10 a.m.
- **March 22:** Enjoy a presentation of The Easter Story in the sanctuary at 10 a.m., followed by our final choir rehearsal before our performance next week. Parents/guardians are invited to join in the fun!
- **March 29:** Singing in church at 9 a.m. (please have your student in the Lower Level by 8:40 a.m.). Join us at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for Palm Sunday brunch and a Holy Week Family Kick-Off Activity!

**Unless otherwise listed, please drop off Sunday School students at main sanctuary door in the upper level parking lot. Pick up students at the lower level parking lot.*



Craft during Palm Sunday Brunch

During the Palm Sunday Brunch we are inviting people to help make an Easter window display for the church narthex to celebrate the Easter season. We will be cutting flower pedals out and gluing them together. This is an easy craft that can be done by all ages.

It will be a great addition to our decorations for Easter!

Questions? Ask Sue Krejcarek, master of all things crafty



Kits of Caring collection during Lent



Every kit you make will be cherished by the person who receives it in their time of need. Thank you to those who have already brought in supplies and made kits. Please pick up our extra supplies and purchase what is still needed to make a complete kit. You will find information in the narthex.

Sponsored by TW-ELCA and Support and Service Committee

The Financial Resources Committee is seeking a volunteer to succeed Mike Kohls as the bookkeeper for the **Gifts & Memorials** account. Mike will provide training. This role requires a commitment of only a few hours per month, plus one monthly meeting.

Additionally, the committee is looking to expand its membership. If you have an interest in supporting our church's financial health, we invite you to join. Participation involves attending meetings as you are able.

For more information, see **Mike Kohls, Kirk Van Dreel, Mark Moser, Amy Van Dreel, or Pastor Chuck.**



Happy March, Women of the ELCA!

Your Appleton and Oshkosh Conference organizers invite you to a day of fellowship, contemplation, and celebration at [All Saints Lutheran in Oshkosh](#) on Saturday, April 25.

Highlights include:

- ◆ In-kind collection of diapers and hygiene products
- ◆ A brief business meeting
- ◆ Worship with Pastor Leslie O'Callaghan
- ◆ A light brunch
- ◆ Learning about labyrinths with Deb Martin

The event begins at 8:30 a.m. and closes at noon.

Ready to sign up?

Please mail your \$15 registration fee and registration form **by March 30**. You can find the registration form here:



Sunday Scriptures

Fourth Sunday in Lent

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD's chosen successor to Saul.

¹ The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ² Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵ He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of

his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Psalm 23

¹ The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
² The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.
³ You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your
name's sake.
⁴ Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of
death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of
my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running
over.
⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the
days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

⁸ Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,
"Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

Gospel: John 9:1-41

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

¹ As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷ saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?"

⁹ Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹² They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰ His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes.



Serving at worship this Sunday

Ushers

Bill Krejcarek, Mark Moser

Lector

Terry Wegner

Communion Assistant

Ron Flohr

Musician

Sally McCormick

Slides

Samantha Kable

Livestream

Tom Vigil

Altar Guild

Sue Krejcarek
Sandy Krueger

Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶ They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸ Then they reviled

him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?"

⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

Sermon Notes

Blindness

Two seriously ill patients shared the same hospital room.

One of the patients had the bed by the room's only window and the other patient had his bed by the door.

The patient next to the window was allowed to sit up in his bed but the other patient spent most of time on his back because he was too weak. He could only really sit up for an hour a day but even so, he couldn't see out of the window.

The two patients talked for hours together about their families, their jobs, their holidays and their interests.

The patient next to the window would pass the time by describing to his friend all the things he could see outside the window.

The window overlooked a park with a beautiful lake. Geese, ducks, herons and swans played on the water while children played ball games and flew kites on the grass. There were people jogging, cycling, walking, skateboarding and there was a yoga class on one of the grassed areas near the bandstand.

This was a majestic park full of life with magnificent trees, flower beds and a busy cafe and play area. The benches were always in use with people sat reading or local office workers eating their lunch.

As the man described his view from the window in glorious detail, the man on the other side of the room

would close his eyes and imagine the delightful scene.

One balmy afternoon the patient by the window described a parade passing through the park. Although the other man could not hear the band, he could see the parade in his mind's eye, as the patient by the window painted a detailed picture with his eloquent words.

Sadly, one morning, a nurse found the patient by the window had passed away peacefully in his sleep. This was a shock to his friend although not unexpected as he knew his friend was very ill.

After a couple of days, the other patient asked the nurses if he could be moved next to the window which they were happy to do.

He was desperate to see out of the window and when he managed to prop himself up to take a look, he was amazed that the view wasn't the park his friend had described – it was a brick wall!

The patient asked the nurse why his friend would have chosen to describe in detail a park that wasn't actually there.

The nurse responded that the man was blind and could not even see the wall.

She said, "Perhaps he just wanted to encourage you."

The blind man in this story certainly had a unique perspective.



Not being able to see, he chose to give encouragement to the other patient the only way he could.

He recognized that what was most important was the relationship with the other patient in the room.

He was physically blind, but not spiritually.

The religious leaders in the Gospel lesson we just heard had spiritual blindness.

Jesus had just healed a blind man, but they could not accept this.

For one thing this was done on the Sabbath, and there was a long list of things you cannot do on the Sabbath.

This Jesus could not be a true representative of God if he breaks the Sabbath, even if he was doing something good.

They had no compassion for the blind man.

They could not rejoice with the man.

Instead they question his credibility, over and over again.

He tells them repeatedly how he was healed but they do not listen.

All they see is a brick wall.

God could not possibly have worked a miracle here.

Jesus, however, not only heals but firms a relationship with the healed blind man.

This man not only is healed from physical blindness

but places his faith in Jesus.

He “worships” him.

The religious leaders could have as well.

Instead they chose to stay in their blindness and refuse to acknowledge God at work.

Jesus calls them out.

They say to him “Surely we are not blind, are we?”

Jesus says to them, “if you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

Whew!

Before we condemn these leaders, aren’t we all spiritually blind to some degree?

We all miss seeing God at work sometimes.

We can get caught up in our own issues and agendas, or our own vision of the way things should be, that we can be blinded to God’s work.

In these politically divisive times we tend to believe what we want to believe.

We all need to stop and look at Jesus.

He will open our eyes.

He is not a brick wall.

We can trust in him.

Look to the cross.

Trust in the resurrection.



Trusting God
doesn't mean
I have all
the answers.
It means, I believe,
that He does.