

Trinity Steeple Notes

March 2022 News and Notes



Deepen Your Faith This Lent

The liturgical season of Lent is often reflected upon as a time for self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving, and acts of love. It is a time in the church year to refocus on God and God's relationship with each of us. In years past, people would give

something up for the season, with the thought that without that thing/activity/expense, one would be able to better connect with God. In more recent times, people have taken on a practice/activity/action that enables them to connect with God in a new way during Lent.

This year, our devotional theme for Lent is **"Selah – a time for holy pause."** Selah is a word that pops up over 70 times in the book of Psalms, and even with it showing up that much, theologians have not settled on a specific definition. Since the psalms can be spoken or sung, it has been defined as to praise, and to lift up, and to pause. One simple definition is **"to pause and calmly think about."**

Pastor Jen Dee (Trinity, Robesonia) and Deaconess Deborah have worked together to create a Lenten Devotional that includes daily Psalms, Prayers and Spiritual Practices. Each week we lift up a different practice for you to try. You can pick up a copy of the devotional in the narthex. It will be sent to you electronically on Ash Wednesday.

On Tuesday Evenings (via Zoom) and Thursday mornings (11:00 at Trinity) you are invited to join others exploring and reflecting upon the spiritual practices. Contact Deaconess Deborah at dgraf@trinityreading.com/610-374-4861 for more information and a link.

Parish News



Lenten Music Notes

While Lent is a time for reflection and introspection, I will offer a pre-Lenten *ALLELUIA* that that choir will be back with us in worship beginning Lent 1, March 6. I am also grateful that we have returned to having members of our congregation choose hymns and offer other worship suggestions. Many thanks to Beth and Steve Welz for planning this Lenten season.

Here is a foretaste of the musical offerings. The preludes will be J. S. Bach settings of Lenten chorales. Organ music during the distribution will be settings of Lenten hymns. The postludes will be based on the hymn *Ah, Holy Jesus*. The Kyrie, psalms, and Lord's Prayer will be chanted. We will be using Setting 9 in ELW. Several hymns will be from a new supplemental hymnal – *All Creation Sings*. There will also be a hymn from *With One Voice*.

One of the things I cherish about Trinity is our wonderful congregational singing. I look forward to leading you during our Lenten pilgrimage. —Karen

WBMD Midweek Lenten Worship Series

Let's worship together in Lent! Wednesday evenings beginning March 2

Plans are being made to again offer virtual West Berks Mission District (WBMD) worship services for Ash Wednesday and other Wednesday evenings in Lent. Please join your sisters and brothers during this holy season as we pray for and work toward keeping holy connections alive during this prolonged pandemic. We hope you will join us...

Parish News

- **Ash Wednesday Worship on March 2nd** is a full service with over two dozen WBMD participants contributing content. It will be broadcast on Comcast Channel 190 at 7:30 PM on Ash Wednesday, March 2 and will be posted to Trinity's YouTube channel and Facebook page by noon that day. The link will also be shared on the WBMD website. Worshipers will be invited to impose their own ashes at home. (Ashes can be picked up at Trinity on Feb. 27 and in the Bard House during office hours.) Other options include collecting ashes from a fireplace, soot from a burned candle wick, or even soil from a potted plant, which you may use to mark the sign of the cross on your forehead at the appropriate time in the service. Thanks to Matt Mellen for producing this program for us and WBMD.
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- The logo for Ash Wednesday features the words "Ash" and "Wednesday" in a colorful, hand-drawn font. The word "Ash" is in yellow and blue, and "Wednesday" is in blue and purple. To the right of the text is a stylized cross made of four overlapping lines in red, blue, and purple.
- **Other Wednesdays in Lent we will gather on Zoom.** We will feature a recorded Lenten service from a different WBMD congregation each week. We will gather on Zoom at 7:00 PM for a short opening prayer and introduction, share the recorded 20-30 minute worship service, and then finish as our Zoom group afterward with some discussion, sharing of upcoming events, etc. We expect to be finished by 7:45ish. (If you would like a phone link, please contact Deaconess Deborah at 610-374-4861.) Topic: WBMD Wednesday Lenten Service Time: Wednesdays in Lent - March 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6 at 7:00 PM Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84551069168?pwd=MEV4OnBRcG5hVDN5UGO4cWFPTXNNOT09>
 - **Wednesday Evenings In-Person:** Pastor Tom Scornavacchi and Vicar Melissa Hrdlicka invite us to join them for Common Ground Recovery Worship in Lundin Hall at Atonement Lutheran, Wyomissing at 7:00 PM.

Mission & Service

Mission and Service Lenten Offerings: Two Opportunities

Resettling an Afghan Family and Body Care items for the LGBT Center of Reading



REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

Did you know that Trinity has had a history of helping resettle refugee families? Our congregation sponsored a family from Vietnam, helping them build new lives in the United States. This Lent we have another opportunity to help resettle an Afghan family by sharing our Lent offerings and partnering with other churches and organizations. The Afghan Sponsor Circle of Greater Reading Area (ASCGRA) is a volunteer-led group that is helping to resettle an Afghan refugee family in our area. 100% of funds raised through this campaign will go towards resettlement costs for the family, getting them situated with housing, furniture, food, transportation, and other basic needs as they acclimate to life in the US.

Sponsor Circles (sponsorcircles.org) are part of the US government's emergency response to identify placements for the large numbers of Afghan allies and their families who were evacuated to this country after US forces withdrew from Afghanistan. The initiative expands the capacity of the US to welcome these refugees quickly and effectively, providing a critical addition to the ongoing efforts of refugee resettlement agencies. Our group will be matched with a newcomer family who wishes to resettle in our area. All donations or other offers of help are welcome. You can contact the ASCGRA team via email afghancircleading@gmail.com if you wish to volunteer or learn more about this effort. Thank you!

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The LGBT Center of Greater Reading <https://www.lgbtcenterofreading.com/> provides a safe, supportive, and empowering home for the LGBTQ+ community of Reading, Berks County, and beyond. Throughout Lent for those of us who like to give 'offerings we can touch' we are collecting full-sized bottles of shampoo, conditioner, and body wash for their Toiletry Closet. Items can be brought to the Narthex or the Bard House at Trinity.



Dining for a Cause on Tuesday, March 8

The Afghan Sponsor Circle of Greater Reading Area (ASCGRA) is having a fundraising meal at the Wyomissing Family Restaurant and Bakery on March 8th from 4 PM to 8 PM. The Wyomissing Family Restaurant and owner Hamid Chaudhry are generously sponsoring this fundraising dinner and will donate 100% of the proceeds to the group. The menu for the evening includes an all-you-can-eat dinner of fried chicken, lemon herbed chicken, cheeseburgers, fish, mashed potatoes, pasta & vegetables, and a variety of desserts & soft drinks. Tickets for the meal event (curbside pick-up available) can be purchased on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/afghan-refugee-family-benefit-dinner-tickets-262375430977?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

For those without internet access, please speak to Deaconess Deborah for help.

Pastoral Acts and Membership Transactions

Alan & Phyllis Wolkenhauer transferred membership to Trinity Lutheran Church, Robesonia; John & Pat Richter transferred membership to Atonement Lutheran Church, Wyomissing

Learning Ministries

2022 Sunday Forums & Sunday School Resuming March 6

9:00 AM Forum in the auditorium

Trinity has a history of welcoming fieldwork students, walking with them in their formation to be rostered ministers in the ELCA. We have the honor of hosting MaryAnn Farnsworth, an ELCA deacon candidate, who will be joining us on Sunday mornings. Make sure to introduce yourself to her and welcome her to Trinity.



March 6 – Meet MaryAnn Farnsworth – Take the opportunity to meet MaryAnn and hear about her journey to discerning a call to become a deacon. MaryAnn is a member of St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in Birdsboro and is married to Pastor Jim Farnsworth, so she is no stranger to congregational ministry. Her full time day job with the DEA takes her around the world, meaning she will not be with us every Sunday and will have some exciting stories to tell.

Recognizing that Trinity Lutheran Church is located in the center of Reading, it is important for its members to be aware of new initiative happening in the city. Therefore, occasionally, there will be community leaders updating our members and guests in future Adult Forums.

March 13 - Mr. Tim Daley, the Executive Director of Berks Habitat for Humanity will introduce the audience to the Buttonwood Project. This project will revitalize a long-neglected area of Reading. Mr. Daley, a graduate of Alvernia University, and a retired Reading city policeman, will excite the audience as he describes the vision for the project.

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March 20 - To Conserve or Restore? Kathrine Graf, a longtime Trinity member living in Lincoln, England, will share her experiences as a conservator of built heritage currently working on the Medieval Bishop's Palace in Lincoln. <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/lincoln-medieval-bishops-palace/conserving-lincolnmedieval-bishops-palace/>

March 26 – Pastor Mike Bennethum, Director of Evangelical Mission (DEM) for the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA is no stranger to Berks County. His forum “What’s happening in our denomination these days?” will focus on the ministries of the greater church and how Trinity is connected to them.

‘Selah’ for Kids

Sunday School for kids (and youth helpers!)

9:00 AM in the large Sunday School Room

Each Sunday through Lent, kids will be taking a Holy Pause, exploring God’s word and world, and learning more about the journey to Easter. Led by Annie Harlin, kids will have the opportunity to explore spiritual practices and express their creativity through various art projects. Youth and adult helpers are always welcome and encouraged. Please speak to Annie and/or check with Deaconess Deborah about how you can help.



Broadcast Schedule for March

All of our programs listed below can be watched on Comcast Channel 190 (in the Reading Hospital, Channel 80) or online at any time at www.trinityreading.org or on our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/trinitylutheranchurch. Trinity's Sunday morning worship is also live streamed via Facebook and You Tube. You may log on to either platform on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM and worship at the same time as the in-person congregation.



Sundays

6:00 PM: First Friday:

Daily Talmud Study

6:30 PM: Music from Trinity:

Mary McCormick-Archutowski,
soprano

7:00 PM: Trinity Worship Service

Wednesdays

4:00 PM: Trinity Worship

5:00 PM: Music from Trinity:

Mary McCormick-Archutowski,
soprano

5:30 PM: First Friday:

Daily Talmud Study



Affirmation of Welcome: Trinity Lutheran Church is recognized by Reconciling Works as a "Reconciling in Christ" Congregation which welcomes all LGBTQ+ persons into all facets of congregational life.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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