



# Trinity Steeple Notes

## February - March 2023

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### Worship this Lent

**Ash Wednesday, February 22**

Worship at 12:05 PM in Trinity's Chapel and at 7:00 PM in the Nave. Both services will offer the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.



**Wednesday Noon Worship** will be held in the Chapel at 12:05 PM every Wednesday in March. This 25 minute quiet service will include Holy Communion.

**Wednesday evening Lent worship with Common Ground.** Together with the Common Ground Recovery Community and Atonement Lutheran Church at 5 Wyomissing Blvd., we are invited to meet for dinner at 6:00 PM and worship at 7:00 PM, where we will sing pieces of Holden Evening Prayer, read Scripture, pray, and light candles together.

### Deepen Your Faith This Lent

The liturgical season of Lent offers a special 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.

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What is God calling you to this Lent? Perhaps you will spend some centering prayer time with one of the devotions available in our narthex. Or you may choose to give an extra offering to our Lenten project, give up social media/limit your time on electronics, attend Wednesday worship at noon at Trinity or in the evening at Common Ground in Wyomissing. Whatever you choose, we pray that God will bless your Lenten practices knowing that your Trinity family is with you on the journey.

## **Lenten Project – Heart for Home**

Moved by the Sunday Forum presentation by Kate Alley, our Lenten offering project will be supporting LightHouse Women and Children’s Center. The need for safe housing and life support for women and their families is great. We are setting a lofty goal (that will take us beyond Lent): to be a named Room Sponsor for one of the 43 rooms in the Center at the cost of \$25,000 (which can be spread over several years. We can do this!). Offerings of all amounts are welcomed and encouraged. Together we make a difference. As an added incentive, Pastor Fred Opalinski and Bruce Ilgen are creating Heart for Home ceramic mugs for the suggested donation of \$50 or more. The mugs can be a prayer touchstone for the work of LightHouse and the people they will serve.

## **Lenten Giving Project for Common Ground**

Our neighbors in Common Ground Recovery Community need men’s clothes of all sizes and travel-sized containers of personal care items such as hand sanitizer, shampoo/conditioner, shaving cream, soap, lotion, and hand wipes. Shaving razors and feminine hygiene pads are also welcome. Please bring all toiletry gifts to the narthex and leave clothing gifts on the stage in the auditorium.

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## Lent: What's it all about?

**Sunday School for kids (and youth helpers!)**

**9:00 a.m. in the large Sunday School Room 2/26-4/2)**

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. Youth and adult helpers are always welcome and encouraged.

Please speak to Deaconess Deborah about how you can help.



## **ChAOS Retreat – We Are! The Body of Christ!**

**March 24-26 at Bear Creek Camp**

What is the Body of Christ? Where do I belong?

What gifts do I have to share? Youth from all over Berks County will gather for a weekend in God's good creation.

There will be workshops, music/singing, campfires, outdoor activities including hikes and low ropes adventure, and just plain old fun! This retreat is geared for youth grades 6-9 (and youth grades 10-12 may serve as youth assistants.) Speak to Deaconess Deborah for more details and registration forms.

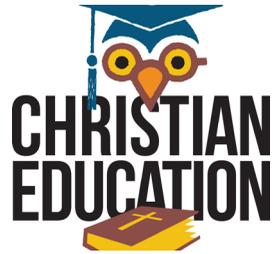
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## Sunday Forums - at 9:00 AM in the Auditorium

### Interesting-Informative-Inspirational

**February 26 and March 5 – Dare to dream!** As you may know, the Lutheran presence here in Reading has changed in recent years. Are you ready for more changes? Whether we like it or not, more changes are coming in the not-too-distant future. Please join us as we dare to dream of what that future might look like and how Trinity might play an important role in what happens next!



**March 12 - Do they know us by our love?** Do our communities know us by our buildings or by our presence? How do we witness in our public life to the love of God in Christ? Join Tracey DePasquale from Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania (LAMPa) as we explore how to be a public church for the sake of the world. We'll look at where we as members of Trinity are already answering the call to serve, and how we can take what we learn there to answer our baptismal call to "strive for justice and peace in all the earth." We'll brainstorm some ideas for God's work. Our hands. Sunday.

**March 19 – Berks Community Health Center** Deborah Harcraft, Chief Community Relations Director for Berks Community Health Center, will present a program describing the relatively new health provider for Berks County residents regardless of their economic status.

**March 26 – Technology and You:** with Matt Mellen and Jenn Smith

**April 2 – Palm Sunday Prayer Walk: The Church has left the building.**

We will continue our tradition of crafting prayers for our city, county, and world and walking all around the neighborhood, sharing palms along the way.

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## Musical Notes for the Season of Lent

The music of Lent is some of the most moving music of any season of the church year. During the distribution of ashes during the 7:00 PM service on Ash Wednesday, the congregation will chant, accompanied by the shruti box, the text, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” For the first five Sundays in Lent, our worship services will start with a congregational choral gathering using the hymn *On My Heart Imprint Your Image*. The services will also include a prelude, chanted kyrie, psalm and Lord’s Prayer, and organ music during the distribution of communion. Most of those weeks the distribution music will be settings of the hymn *Ah, Holy Jesus*. Other organ music will include settings of *Savior, When in Dust to You, My Faith Looks Up to Thee*, *My Heart is Filled with Long*, and *Out of the Depths*. The Mixed Ensemble will lead us in worship and present an anthem on March 19.

Holy Week and Easter offerings will include the Trinity Choir singing *Ride on King Jesus* and the Trinity Ringers with violinist Jillian Rosenbaum playing *What Wondrous Love Is This* on Palm/Passion Sunday, Oliver Messiaen’s *Le Banquet Céleste* (The Celestial Banquet) and Ben Hoover and Peter Graf’s haunting duet of Psalm 88 on Maundy Thursday, and a new composition for choir and organ by Trinity’s Composer in Residence, David Himes, which was commissioned in honor of the tenth anniversary of Trinity’s “new” organ.

The members of the choirs hope their music will deepen your spiritual journey during these Lenten days.



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## Easter Flower/World Hunger Gifts

We invite you to support Easter Sunday flowers and the ELCA's World Hunger program. You may bring your flowers home after Easter Sunday worship or share them to be delivered to homebound members and/or planted to beautify Trinity's courtyard. Donations of any amount are appreciated.



\_\_\_\_\_ I want to bring my flowers home on Easter Sunday

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to share my flowers with homebound members and Trinity's courtyard garden

You may contribute in honor of or in memory of someone you love. Gifts will be acknowledged in Trinity publications. Use the form below and send it with your gift to Trinity's office no later than March 26, 2023. May your Easter be blessed with the love and peace of Christ.

\_\_\_\_\_ Easter flowers                      \_\_\_\_\_ World Hunger

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Souper Bowl of Caring 2023 was SUPER!**

Although the Eagles were not so successful, our Souper Bowl of Caring was a real winner. Thanks to the generosity of members at Trinity, we collected \$757.00 which will be divided between ELCA World Hunger and Helping Harvest (which can purchase \$15,140.00 worth of food!).

We truly do make a difference together. THANK YOU!



## **Wolfe Concert Series Updated Schedule**

Due to a scheduling conflict, the Albright A Cappella Ensembles will not be able to be with us this spring as part of the Wolfe Concert Series. We look forward to them being with us in the coming year.

**Saturday, June 10 and Sunday, June 11:** 2023 Reading Musical Foundation scholarship winners

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## **A note from Deaconess Deborah**

Last year, the West Berks Mission District (1 of 9 mission districts in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod - 33 Lutheran congregations in the western part of Berks County) underwent a self-study and identified 3 important areas of mission: youth ministry, feeding ministries, and collegiality/collaboration. In the fall, the WBMD advertised the new position of coordinator – a very part-time job (approx. 8-10 hours per week) to help connect the various ministries.

After a lot of prayer and discernment, I felt both an internal and external call to apply for this work. As my call to Trinity is part-time, this feels like a natural fit for deacon ministry. I was offered the position and began on February 1. I am very excited to serve in this role; as the church continues to evolve, collaboration is even more essential for ministry.

## **New Vestry Member**

This month we welcome Tom Hofmann as the new member of Trinity's Vestry.

## **Trinity's Call Committee Members**

**Voting Members:** Marian Jameson, Joshua Motley, Brooke Rosenbaum (chair), Sandi Sittler, Vickie Unruh, and Stephen Welz

**Consulting Members:** Steve Hofmann, Maggie Shelly, and Katie Speece

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## West Berks Mission District Prayer Breakfast: Spirit Tapas

Saturday, March 18 at 9:30 AM

Grace Lutheran Church, 30 Liberty Street,  
Shillington



"Lent means singing sad songs." "I hate Lent."

"Lent is the season to remind me how bad I am."

We are here to tell you that Lent is not what you think it means. Lent is an opportunity for growth and renewal and deepening of faith.

The WBMD has had a history of holding a weekday morning prayer breakfast during Lent. This year your mission district council is trying something new: A Saturday morning Lenten Prayer Breakfast (and not too early.) You are warmly invited to join us for Spirit Tapas: A Taste of Spiritual Practices.

After eating some delicious food, Deaconess Deborah Graf, our new WBMD Coordinator, will lead a time of trying various forms of prayer. Just like tapas are small dishes to give you a taste, Spirit Tapas will give you a taste of different ways to connect with God. Some practices may be familiar. Some may be new prayers to add to your tool box.

Register (individuals and groups) by March 8 by contacting Deaconess Deborah Graf at [wbdmcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:wbdmcoordinator@gmail.com) or 610.763.1595 (just leave a message with name and number attending.)

Suggested donation is \$10 per person to cover the costs of the breakfast. (pay at the door.)

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## TLC Congregational Life: Caring for Members

Comfy pillows. Eucharistic Ministry and visitation. Prayer Shawls and warm scarves. Parish Nurses. Cards for caregivers or those undergoing treatment. Fresh bread for people grieving. Over the years there have been many ways that Trinity Lutheran Church (TLC) has offered care for our community. The pandemic affected us all in so many ways; sometimes we forget that we are still working through the trauma of disconnection and uncertainty.

Beth Welz has graciously offered to revitalize our Member Care efforts and help us reconnect and support each other. We don't know what shape this ministry will take; perhaps you have some ideas of what we can do together and would like to participate in a think tank. If you are interested in helping with Member Care in any way, please contact Beth by March 15 at 610.223.3044 or [bwelzrnc@gmail.com](mailto:bwelzrnc@gmail.com). And if you would like a visit from Pastor Drew or Deaconess Deborah (with or without communion), please contact them directly or call the church office at (610) 374-4861.

## Thank You

Dear members of Trinity, thank you so much for the on-going prayers, cards and get well wishes as I recover from my fractured ankle! Thank you to Deaconess Deborah for her visit and the gift of the "comfy pillow." Also, thank you to the prayer shawl group for the wonderful knitted shawl. I really have been blessed!  
--Amy Reinsel

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## Prepare for Worship

Feb. 26: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

March 5: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

March 12: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; and John 4:5-42

March 19: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

March 26: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45



## In Our Prayers

**Immediate prayer requests:** Pr. Rick Chaveas, Jenn Smith, Bishop Christopher deForest, Cathy Manning, Harry Feinauer, Joseph Macijowski (father of MaryAnn Farnsworth), Jonathan Bloom (friend of Jenn Smith), Linda Liptak (sister of Dick Horst and

Robin Oberholtzer), Elizabeth (Bette) Ashton (Christine Motley's grandmother), Micah Long and Megan Zobian

**Ongoing prayer requests:** Christopher Drayer, Dar Unger, Darryl Jeffries, David Strobel, John Kirby, Dick Evans, Ed Harlin, Luther Route, Walter Schur, Ericca (wife of Dave Troche), John Bornhofen, David Unruh (brother of Ralph Unruh), Doris (friend of Pat McMahan), Jim Hofmann (brother of Steve Hofmann), Barbara & Dave Regar (friends of Barbara Ketchum), Celia Cosentino (friend of Jane Zobian), John Matern (father of Deaconess Deborah), Leonard Smith (father of Andrew Smith), Ruth Adam (friend of Graf family), the Sawyer family, and Tina Koch (friend of Jenn Smith)

## February - March Broadcast Schedule

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](http://www.trinityreading.org), on Facebook, or on our YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/trinitylutheranchurch](http://www.youtube.com/trinitylutheranchurch). Worship is available both on demand and streamed live at 10:00 AM on Sundays.



### Sundays

6:00 PM World Views:

Metropolitan Community Church

6:30 PM Music From Trinity:

Jill Haley and Sue McDevitt

English horn, piano, and keyboard

7:00 PM Trinity Worship Service

### Wednesdays

4:00 PM Trinity Worship Service

5:00 PM Music From Trinity:

Jill Haley and Sue McDevitt

English horn, piano, and keyboard

5:30 PM World Views:

Metropolitan Community Church

**New programs begin March 5:** Music - Derrick Thompson, baritone and Jeffrey Lentz, collaborative pianist; and World View - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



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