



TIDINGS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WATERTOWN, MINNESOTA



MARCH 2023

INSIDE:

Lent at Trinity
Children's Ministry
March is Food Share Month
Council Highlights
Parish Health Matters
Last Month in Pictures

Worship

Sundays 9:00 am

Wednesdays 7:00 pm

Onsite & Online

STAFF:

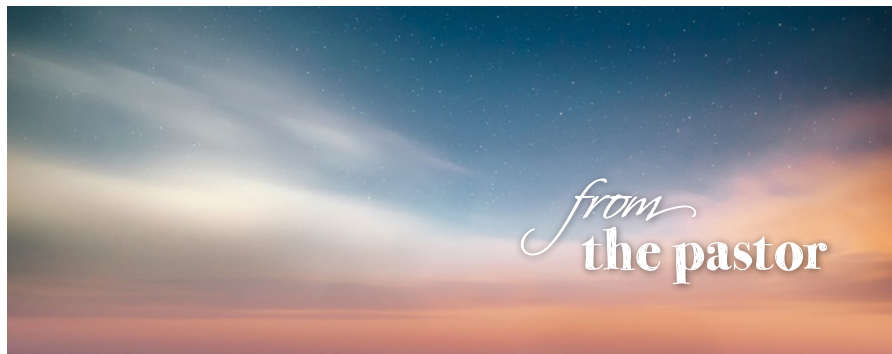
Pastor	Jeffrey M. Engholm
Children's Ministry	Hannah Rosholt
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Holy Healing and Holy Light

On March 15, we will be at the three year mark since we held our last "pre-pandemic" worship service inside our building on March 15, 2020. During the first year of covid we were carrying on our ministry mostly OUTSIDE of the building, and then during the second year of covid we were slowly returning to our ministry INSIDE the building – we signed in when we

came, signed out when we left, wore masks during worship, roped off every other pew, and sat with yellow pool noodles in between us to keep us from sitting too close together! It's been a long, strange journey over the past 36 months, and yet I'm convinced that God has been leading us every step of the way.

You might be weary of seeing write about the pandemic yet again, but the truth is that the ripple effect from covid is still with us, and not a week goes by that I don't hear someone still struggling to regain their footing. Teachers are wondering how to help their students "catch up" after so much screen time. Medical staff are wondering if all the new "tele-health" technology is actually going to benefit their patients. And parents wonder what's next for their children and families.

In light of all that uncertainty, we enter into the season of Lent with all our hopes and fears bundled together for the journey ahead. As we gather every Sunday morning, we'll hear stories about how Christ's light is leading the way ahead. And as we gather every Wednesday night, we'll hear stories from own Trinity members about how God continues to hold them and heal them with the light of God. Yes, the future is uncertain, but it always is. Thanks be to God who continues to guide us with Holy Healing and Holy Light.

~ God's Peace, Pastor Engholm

What's Happening AT TRINITY LUTHERAN?



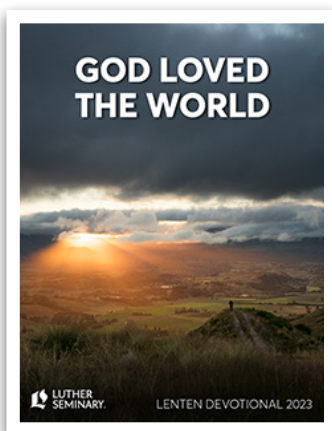
Lent Midweek Services

Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Light meal from 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Worship at 7:00 pm ~ Onsite & Online

During the month of March we will be gathering each Wednesday evening for prayer, music, and a message from one of our faithful Trinity members on the theme of "Holy Healing, Holy Light". As we walk together through this season of Lent, look for signs of God's healing around you. When have you been healed by God? When have you been held by God? When have you seen the light of God around you? Join us for these services each week and feel free to come early for a light meal served by our Confirmation students in the Fellowship Hall.



Lenten Devotional

We invite you to spend time in prayer during this Lenten season with a special devotional book from Luther Seminary called *God Loved the World*. Copies of the devotional book are available in the Trinity narthex and the Welcome Center, outside the church office.

A Personal Project for Lent 2023

Even though the idea of "giving up something for Lent" is not part of our traditional Lutheran practices, many people find it to be a helpful practice during this season. If that's the case for you, are you wondering what to "give up" for Lent this year? Here's a suggestion: Why not give EVERYTHING up for Lent this year? Included in this issue of the *Tidings* is a list with all the dates leading up to Easter. Every day you are encouraged to write down one thing that you are going to "give up to God". Is there something you are struggling with? Write it down and give it up to God. Is there something you are celebrating? Write it down and give it up to God. Is there something on your mind, a person you are thinking about, a situation that is bugging you? Write it down and give it up to God. Write it all down, let it all go, and walk lightly through the coming days!

Looking Ahead to Holy Week



Palm Sunday, April 2

Worship 9:00 am (Onsite & Online)

Continental Breakfast 10:00 - 11:00 am

Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 am

Maundy Thursday, April 6

Golden Agers Lunch 12:00 Noon

Worship 7:00 pm (Onsite & Online)

Good Friday, April 7

Worship 7:00 pm (Onsite & Online)

Easter Sunday, April 9

Worship 9:00 & 10:30 am
(Onsite & Online)

Children's Ministry



March Sunday School Theme

The internet helps us learn how to do so many things! From new skate tricks and viral recipes to helpful hacks, there's a "how-to" for almost everything. But is there a tutorial video for how to follow God? In March, we continue our "How To" series — thanks to some tutorials from Jesus! Each week, we'll focus on one of Jesus' teachings from the Sermon on the Mount as we learn "how to" make a difference, love our enemies, share with others, and pray.

Children's Choir

Our Children's Choir will lead the worship service on Sunday, March 5! We'll be leading worship one more time after that this year (rehearsal will start in again mid-April), so please contact Hannah if your child is interested!

Spring Break

There will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL Sunday, March 26 due to the start of Watertown-Mayer's Spring Break!



Thursday, March 16 | 10:00 am

The Trinity OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans) Fellowship Group welcomes a special guest this month — Chaplain Dale Tweedy. Dale, now living in Watertown, was led by God to serve as a prison chaplain in Moscow, Russia for more than two decades. All are welcome to hear him share his experiences in this ministry.



MN Food Share's March Campaign

Trinity will be collecting food, supplies and dollars for the **Watertown Friends For Life Food Shelf**. As a community of faith, we are called to help those who are hungry and in need.

Food, Supplies & Cash Donations

Food shelves need all types of food and personal care products as well as monetary donations. Money allows the food shelves to stretch donations further because of their access to discount products and programs. Cash also gives them more flexibility to acquire perishable items like fresh produce, meat and dairy products.

Whether through prayers or donations, we thank you for your generosity this month during the Minnesota Food Share March Campaign!

Check out the "Pack the Pews" bags for a list of the items that Friends For Life Food Shelf is in special need of this year.



Pack the Pews Sunday is March 26

Join Trinity for "Pack the Pews Sunday" as a part of Minnesota Food Share's March Campaign. Empty grocery bags will be available in the back rows of pews in March. Everyone is encouraged to take a bag

(or two) home with them, fill it with non-perishable food items and/or household supplies and return it to church by Sunday, March 26. Thank you for your generosity during this Food Share Month.

Congregational NEWS



COUNCIL MEMBERS

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COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

February 21, 2023

FINANCIAL REPORT

Operating Fund summary January 2023

Beginning balance

1/1/2023: \$ 1,939.21

Operating Fund income: \$33,047.28

Operating Fund exps: \$38,137.52

Net balance (Dec.): -\$ 5,090.24

Operating Fund balance as of

1/31/2023: -\$ 3,151.03

2023 operating fund EXPENSES exceeded INCOME by \$5,090.24.

Building Fund expenses:

Loan interest payment: \$ 475.04

Loan principal payment: \$1,861.96

Add'l principal payment: \$2,663.00

Mortgage loan balance:

\$145,486.73

Cash Summary:

Bremer: \$61,555.35

(includes \$1,718.26 for Jan. federal withholding and
\$14,321.96 in hail damage receipts)

Citizen's Building Fund: \$105,650.59

M/S/C Nick Neaton / Nancy Pickering / carried

Comments:

- 6% of operating fund income for benevolence to Minneapolis Area Synod amounted to \$1,979.00.
- Xcel bill for fuel and electricity amounted to \$3,493.76 (up about \$1,000.00 from December).
- \$700.00 was paid for December snow removal.

- Annual elevator maintenance contract was paid in the amount of \$2,128.44.
- New alter candelabra was purchased with memorial money and a special gift from the Quilters.
- Special gifts were given to the food shelf, Love INC and the Royal's Room.
- Mortgage payments of \$5,000.00 continue to be paid.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Jeff is keeping busy with all his monthly duties. Overview of January 2023. The Ash Wednesday evening service has been canceled due to inclement weather.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

No report given. Ryan Ress will be council representative on the Property Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Communion assignments; 1st Sunday will be council members; 3rd Sunday will be volunteers that Dave & Mary Sloneker organize.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion made that Trinity Church re-finance the existing Thrivent mortgage with a new interest free loan of \$120,000.00 from an internal lender, per the scheduled presented.

M/S/C Nancy Pickering / Nick Neaton / carried

MEMORIALS

in memory of

Glen Sandquist

Elsie Sandquist Memorial
Scholarship Fund ~ \$200



Caring for God's Creation at Trinity

Have you noticed the landscaping at Trinity? There is a faithful team tending to it, but more help is welcome! If you have expertise in design or a talent for pulling weeds, please contact Eileen Nelson at nelsej@gmail.com. The space is divided into sections so each person/team has a manageable space and the timing is up to you.

Thank you to last year's team:

Alyson Blakstad, Gail Cassidy, Angela Eliason, Kris Hecksel, Dave Hendricks, Vi Kuehne, Roxanne Lunderby, Sue Magnuson, Eileen Nelson and Tammy Vraspir.



ELCA Missionary Support

Trinity supports the missionary work of The Rev. Philip & Lou Marie Knutson with prayer and financial sponsorship. Support for our missionaries in Africa for one week is \$20. We invite and encourage you to sign up on the calendars in the back of the sanctuary for a week of support (or simply call or email the church office). A gift supporting our missionaries is a great gift for a birthday or anniversary or a meaningful way to remember or honor a loved one. Thank you for your prayers, support and participation in God's Mission locally and globally.

PARISH Health Matters



The monthly column from Trinity's Parish Health Ministry Team

A Parish Health Reboot

Are you ready to put the pandemic behind you? Are there health and wellness practices that have had a positive impact on your life that could potentially help others? We are looking to reboot the Parish Health ministry at Trinity and would love to hear from you.

The Parish Health ministry was started in 2015 to enhance our mind, body and spirit connection. We've sponsored a variety of activities including yoga, Trinity Trail Day, Tour de Tonka rest stop, spiritual retreats, book club, walking club, mental health education sessions and the Trinity Giving Garden.

As we explore future health ministries, we are looking for a few people to join the Parish Health committee. We meet at least quarterly and as needed to brainstorm and coordinate activities. Let us know if you are interested in joining our committee or if you have ideas for wellness activities at Trinity! Please contact Kari Olson (kario4@aol.com) or Pastor Jeff (jengholm@trin.org).

PASTORAL ACTS

BAPTISM

Gerald Vanderbilt
son of
Michael Vanderbilt & Sang Mi Pak
Baptized February 19, 2023

FUNERAL

Richard Volkenant
12/11/1935 ~ 2/16/2023
Memorial Service on
February 24, 2023



Children's Ministry is faith, friends & fun!



Valentines from the Sunshine Ministry



Stewardship Celebration Sunday



Breakfast with the OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans)



Trinity's February Underwear Drive was a huge success. Thank you for all of your donations!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Children's Choir 3pm Lent Supper 5:30 pm Lent Worship 7 pm Youth Group 7:30 pm Worship Choir 7:45 pm Worship Band 8:30 pm	2 Happy Birthday Allison Kuntz Happy Birthday Jacob Empting Andy Olson	3 Happy Birthday Geri Danielson Jack Zellmann	4 Happy Birthday Jeff Peterson Ryan Ress
5 Worship 9 am (Onsite & Online) Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am	6 AA Meeting 8 pm	7 Quilters 9 am Happy Birthday Tom Matson	8 Lent Supper 5:30 pm Lent Worship 7 pm Youth Group 7:30 pm Worship Choir 7:45 pm Worship Band 8:30 pm	9 Happy Birthday Samantha Horsman Jim Sandquist Betsy Swanson	10 Happy Birthday Angela Eliason Anna Gilles Howie Gilles	11 Happy Birthday Marlene Bender Heidi Volkart
12 Worship 9 am (Onsite & Online) Fellowship 10 am Faith Forum 10 am Sunday School 10 am Happy Birthday John Fritzke Tristan Gens Kayla Jones Dave Kind	13 Apostles 8:30 am Priscilla Circle 2 pm AA Meeting 8 pm Happy Birthday Rachel Blackketter	14 Quilters 9 am Happy Birthday Sandra Jones	15 FCA Meeting 7 am Lent Supper 5:30 pm Lent Worship 7 pm Youth Group 7:30 pm Worship Choir 7:45 pm Worship Band 8:30 pm Happy Birthday Kara Loehrs	16 OWLS 10:00 am Finance Committee 6:30 pm Happy Birthday Anja Gilbert Quinn Nichols	17 Happy Birthday Tina Quinlan Mary Speckel	18 Fellowship Hall Reserved
19 Worship 9 am (Onsite & Online) Fellowship 10 am Dig Deeper 10 am Sunday School 10 am	20 AA Meeting 8 pm Happy Birthday Jesse Gjertson Joel Gjertson Braeden Hoover John Quinlan	21 Quilters 9 am Church Council Mtg. 6:30 pm Happy Birthday Gabby Dulas, Diane Filek Betty Gulbrandson, David Hirsch, Rece Illies, Mary Jech, Katie Lohmann, Eileen Nelson, Rick Zellmann	22 Lent Supper 5:30 pm Lent Worship 7 pm Youth Group 7:30 pm Worship Choir 7:45 pm Worship Band 8:30 pm Happy Birthday Paige Erickson Dylan Hecksel Dylan Nelson	23 Housekeepers 9 am Happy Birthday Jacob Bergstrom Nancy Hendricks Joel Paschke	24 Happy Birthday Katy Jo Danielson Emmarie Hirsch	25 Happy Birthday Bailey Hecksel
26 Worship 9 am (Onsite & Online) Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am Happy Birthday Grace Filek Greta Gersema Dustin Stutsman	27 Apostles 8:30 am AA Meeting 8 pm Happy Birthday Jonathan Gallus Dustin Gens Julie Lague	28 Quilters 9 am Happy Birthday Kevin Holmes Jim Salzsiedler	29 Lent Supper 5:30 pm Lent Worship 7 pm Youth Group 7:30 pm Worship Choir 7:45 pm Worship Band 8:30 pm Happy Birthday Mary Jacks Tyler Volkart	30 Happy Birthday Bentley Drews Meg Erickson Heidi Guetzkow Sandy Loehrs Thomas McMahon	31 Happy Birthday Sandy Beckman	

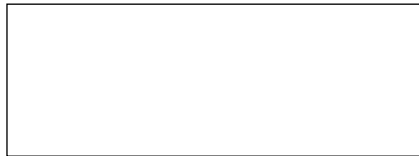


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The God Who Hides

Isaiah declares, "Truly, you are a God who hides himself, O God of Israel, the Savior" (45:15, ESV). But why would God hide? Isn't our knowing God the point?

Martin Luther explained that God hides in unexpected places so as not to be found where the world assumes a god would be — in power, status, fame, wealth — but to be found in weakness, humility and places of suffering.

"Those who have found God in the cross of Jesus Christ," said 20th-century theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "know how wonderfully God hides himself in this world and how he is closest precisely when we believe him to be most distant." So God assures us of his presence in the humble manger, among the poor and outcast during his ministry, in the excruciating suffering of the cross, and with us in every struggle.

God hides not to avoid us but so we will discover him precisely where we need him most, and where others need us most.