

**HOLY TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEWSLETTER**

*To Be and To
Make Disciples
of Jesus Christ*

Vol 32. Issue 2



F E B R U A R Y

We
love
because
He first
loved us.

1 John 4:19

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Dan and I went to Disney Springs one evening while we were at the Clergy Retreat a few weeks ago. We stopped to listen to one of the bands and in between songs one of the musicians tells a joke: "A photon checks into a hotel and is asked if he needs any help with his luggage. He responds "No thanks. I'm traveling light."

We are wrapping up the Epiphany season, a season of revelation, a season celebrating the light of Christ, a season of celebrating our own baptismal life and how we shine the light of Christ into the world. I thought the joke was quite appropriate for the church season. The first disciples certainly traveled light when they responded to Jesus' call to follow him. The Epiphany season concludes with the Transfiguration of Jesus where three disciples are given a vision of God's glory manifest in the beloved Son. They were blinded by the light of God's glory on the mountain top.

Three days after the Transfiguration, we enter the season of Lent, a season of repentance. Repentance opens us to the ways in which "God is not done with us yet." Also, we are reminded that praying, fasting and other penitential acts are meant to be between us and God. We are not to make a show of them for others. For when our penitence turns only toward God, we prayerfully make space for God to do something in us. We do not always know what fasting from food will do in us; we can't know until we allow God to feed us. We cannot know what treasure in heaven looks like until we release our treasure to God and see what God does with it.

Cont'd Next Page

The season of Lent is a good time to take on a spiritual discipline such as daily Bible reading and prayer, or daily Bible reading and journaling, if you are not already in the habit. One doesn't need to give a lot of time to this daily practice, ten minutes is plenty – especially if that is all the time you have. Nor does one have to read a lot. Read as much or as little as you want. There are plenty of days where I only read one verse and will reflect and pray on that one verse.

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

Your Sister in Christ,

Pastor Kathy

Pastor Kathy's Large Catechism: Ten Commandments class continues through Thursday, February 8th and Saturday, February 10th.



IT'S LEAP YEAR!

Highlights of Pastor's Report for Council

- Training key individuals to use ICON (church membership database)
- Working on Annual Report
- Attending NALC Clergy Retreat (formerly called Pastor's Conference) January 15-19
- Prepping for Midweek Lenten Services

COMING SOON !

St Luke's Hot Meals (keep reading this newsletter for specific dates)

Ash Wednesday Service - Wednesday, February 14 @ 12pm. Lenten Services continue on Wednesdays at 12pm through March 20, followed by Soup & Bread lunch. Look for sign-up sheets & RSVP forms.

March of Prayer Service @ Holy Trinity on Wednesday, March 6 @ 6pm

Daylight Savings Begins "Spring Forward One (1) Hour" on Saturday, March 9

Palm Sunday Worship, March 24 @ 10am

Maundy Thursday, March 28 @ 7pm

Good Friday, March 29 @ 7pm

Easter Sunday Worship, March 31 @ 10am

LifeWise Madison Update

I wanted to reach out to let you know how thankful we are at LifeWise Madison for Holy Trinity's generous congregation for the wondering offering as well as hosting me! The donation was a beautiful gift to our ministry and has been a blessing to our entire program. I would like to update the church on the progress and status of our Madison local program. We have launched into 2024 with a big vision for what God is going to do within our community and program.

We have hit 100 students and will be expanding not only our current grades but will be meeting with administration to further that number and grade level into K-6. Please help us to pray over this expansion and growth. Each student has received a bible for their home to further their walk with the Lord as we continue to teach and minister to them each week. With this we are seeing families attending our local churches and inviting friends and family! We couldn't feel more blessed to be seeing the direct impact on what the Gospel is doing within this community.

With growth comes the need for more volunteers, ambassadors, board members and donations. Would you be able to look within your congregation to see if anyone specifically would be interested or recommended in becoming an Ambassador for LifeWise Madison? I would love to set up one-on-one meetings to talk more about the many ways they can serve through LifeWise and share our strategic plan. Thank you again for all you have done for this ministry and I look forward to talking soon!

Blessings,
Charlie Manges
Director – LifeWise Madison
740-815-4320

FEBRUARY

Birthdays

11th—Bonnie Elias
Karen Russell
12th—Sue Hendrickson
18th—Shelley Barber
19th—Heidi Koon
23rd—Carol Fry
24th—George Frank

February is a short month but it is certainly
full of fun!

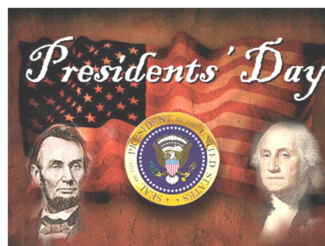
2nd Groundhog Day

14th Valentines Day

19th President's Day (Offices Closed)

29th Leap Day

*Valentine's
Day!*



FEBRUARY SPECIAL OFFERING

Endowment Fund

Please Make Checks Payable to HTLC

**Contributions may be mailed, dropped in
the church mail slot, or in offering plate
on Sunday mornings.**

The **February Offering** envelope is for the Endowment Fund. The Holy Trinity Endowment Fund enhances the work of the church by reaching out to those within our own congregation and beyond its doors, through monetary assistance, to further the work of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; or to those outside the Body of Believers, if such a gift can effectively witness to God's message of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.



**Feeding the
Community**

FOOD COLLECTION

**Food collection continues every Sunday.
Donated food will be taken
to the designated agency
after the Third Sunday of each month.**

Living in the Overflow

by Rev. Dona Johnson

An economy is based on ordinary daily transactions, a value exchange of goods or services for something of consistent value. In ancient times, grain was the currency. It was aggressively traded and used to pay taxes and buy protection from the king. Today, whether it be stocks and bonds, health care, service industry employment, Word and sacrament ministry or anything else we do, daily transactions are the way our world's economy functions. It's not just money; it includes our relationships with one another. Each of us has expectations and motivations behind our transactions.

These transactional behaviors are so ingrained in our consumeristic culture that we don't give them much thought. And it should be no surprise that these worldly attitudes seep into our congregations. Weekly giving for some people can become solely a transaction: *I give because I am obligated*, or I give to pay the bills.

That only touches the surface of what it means to give and give generously. Knowing in your mind and heart that everything we exchange in our earthly lives has its origin, its source, in God our Creator—this moves giving from transactional to transformational. Everything we are and all that we have in this life—if we take a moment to trace it all back to its source, it leads us to a generous, self-giving God who is the source of all redemptive love.

Do we truly believe that everything we possess in this life is a gift given to us by God? You and I may nod in agreement. But if so, then why is financial giving wrapped in myths and fears? Why is there so much time, attention and anxiety involved with how we acquire, secure, spend, save, loan, borrow and give money? In his book *Life Without Lack*, Dallas Willard writes, "One of the greatest needs today is for people to really see and really believe the things they already profess to see and believe. Knowing about things—knowing what they are, being able

to identify them and say them—does not mean we actually believe them. ...Acting as if things are true means, in turn, that we live as if they were so.” Transformation happens when we discover God’s truths for ourselves and gain understanding about what we may have not understood before. Self-discovery leads to deep changes—heart changes. And when a truth changes your heart, it becomes a part of you, an unrehearsed guiding principle of your life.

We enjoy God’s presence, notice the beauty and goodness of the grace around us, and become utterly caught up in his abundant generosity when giving moves from being a purely transactional activity to a transformational one. Transformational giving sees giving as an act of worship, a surrender to love, a deeply spiritual practice. When we live with transformed hearts, we look for daily opportunities to give ourselves to the needs of the world and put fewer expectations on return. Transformational giving is uncalculating; instead, it is genuinely generous, big-hearted and open-handed.

How can this be? Because whether we believe it or not, we live in the overflow: The overflow, the abundance of God’s love. As C.S. Lewis said, “In God there is no hunger that needs to be filled, only plenteousness that desires to give.”

from North American Lutheran Church Living and Giving Ministry | ©2023 North American Lutheran Church

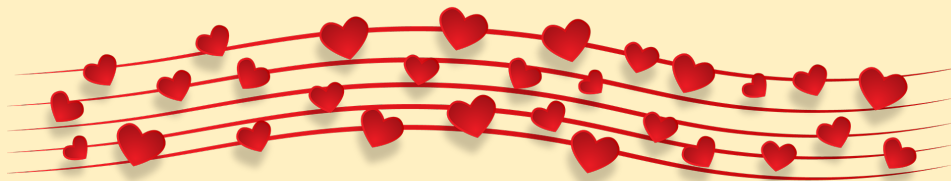


SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<h1>February 2024</h1>			
4	5	6	7
9:00a Parish Ed Mtg			
10a Worship Svc			
ANNUAL MEETING & BOY SCOUT Breakfast Fundraiser		5:15p HT Bells 6p Property Mtg	
1p Confirmation Class			
11	12	13	14
			ASH WEDNESDAY
10a Worship Svc		5:15p HT Bells	10a ComfortM
11:15a Adult/Youth Ed		6:30p Council Mtg	12p Ash Wedn day Service Soup & Brea Lunch
18	19	20	21
	Office Closed		
10a Worship Svc	Presidents' Day		10a Outreach I
11:15a Adult/Youth Ed		1p Outreach Mtg	12p Lent Servic Soup & Bread
1p Confirmation Class		5:15p HT Bells	2p Finance Mt
25	26	27	28
10a Worship Svc			12p Lent Servic Soup & Bread
11:15a Adult/Youth Ed			
		5:15p HT Bells	

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3
	10a Catechism Study		9a Catechism Study
	12:00p HT Singers		
	1:30p Coffee Books & Dessert Club		
	7p Appleseed Squares		
	8	9	10
	10a Catechism Study		9a Catechism Study
	11:30a Worship Music Mtg		Baby Shower (Barbe) 2-4p – FH/K
	12:00p HT Singers		
	7p Appleseed Squares		7p-10p Appleseed Squares Dance
	15	16	17
WEDNESDAY			
PortMakers	12:00p HT Singers		
Wednes- -ice / 3read	7p Appleseed Squares		
	22	23	24
each Mtg	12:00p HT Singers		
ervice / read			St Luke's Hot Meals
e Mtg	7p Appleseed Squares		
	29	Ballroom Dance Lessons are canceled until further notice (<i>due to injury</i>). There will be NO Valentines Dance.	
ervice / read	12:00p HT Singers		
	7p Appleseed Squares		

IN CHRIST'S

	SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4	SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11
Head Usher	JIM FLEMING	
Greeters	ROGER & MARY STEUDE	
Lectors	BONNIE ELIAS	LINDA FLEMING
Cantors	BARNEY MUSSELMAN	KATHY GLESSNER
Ushers	ELAINE BISHOP, DAN DIST	
Altar Guild	BARBARA &	
Communion Altar Asst.	DON & ROBERTA KARGER	
Offering Counters	KAREN TICKNOR	
Snow Removal	DOUG RHODES	JERRY UNRUH



W'S SERVICE

**SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 18**

**SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 25**

JIM FLEMING

ROGER & MARY STEUDE

BARBARA FRAIFOGL

KATHY GLESSNER

DICK COLLIER

BONNIE ELIAS

ISTL, CAROL FRY, REX LITTERAL

& JERRY FRAIFOGL

DON & ROBERTA KARGER

OR & JONATHAN SCHEIDT

DON KARGER

JERRY FRAIFOGL



Guided to the Cross

Lent is a season when we are guided to the cross. Throughout this holy time, we are drawn to Calvary to live in forgiveness, hope, love, peace, trust and perseverance. Each week, the services in this series reveal how Christ and his cross serve as examples for us of how to live our lives for and through our crucified Lord and Savior.

This worship series will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14th as we are drawn to Calvary to receive forgiveness. In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of forgiving one another as we have been forgiven by Christ through the cross. Midweek Lenten services, including Ash Wednesday service, will be held at noon on Wednesdays. Following the noon service, a lunch of soup and bread will be served in the Fellowship Hall. Sign-up sheets for attendance, donations of soup and bread, and for serving and clean-up can be found in the entry.

Service Schedule

Ash Wednesday, February 14

Wednesday, February 21

Wednesday, February 28

Wednesday, March 6

Wednesday, March 13

Wednesday, March 20

Palm Sunday, March 24

Maundy Thursday, March 28

Good Friday, March 29

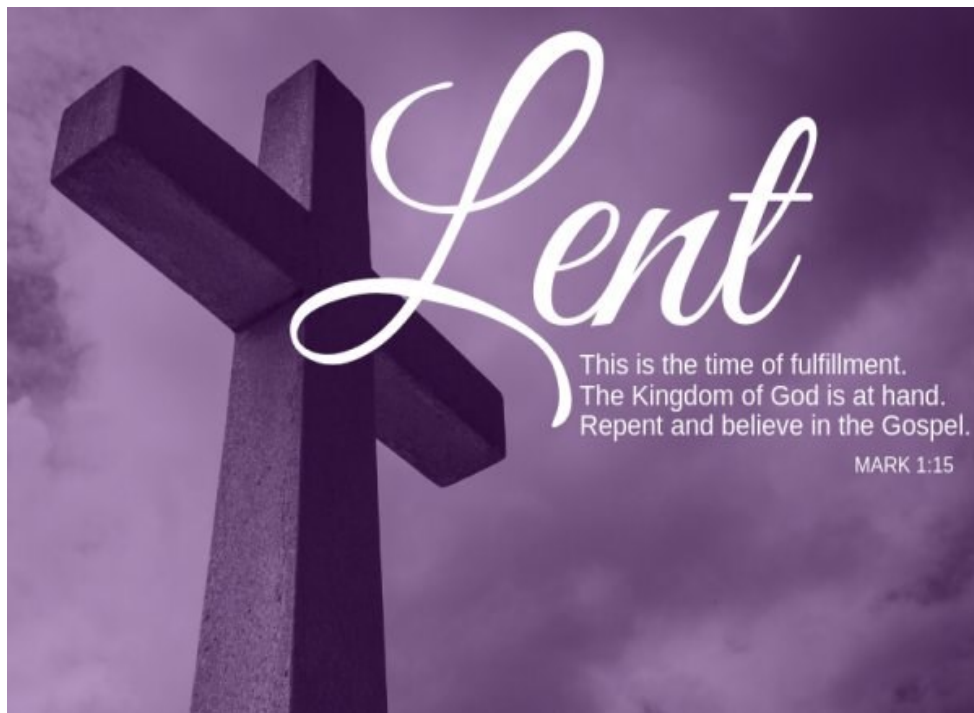
Easter Sunday, March 31

Ash Wednesday



*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*

E C C L E S I A S T E S 3 : 2 0



Hot Meals at St. Luke's Point of Grace

Mark your calendars with the following dates that Holy Trinity will be serving the Saturday evening meals at St. Luke's Point of Grace:

February 24
May (TBA)
August (TBA)
November (TBA)



Sign-up sheets for serving and donating cookies/
bars for our February 24th meal are in the Narthex.

*The office will be closed on
Monday, February 19 to observe
President's Day.*



GRACE, *mercy* and
PEACE from *God* the Father
and from
Jesus Christ, the Father's Son,
will be with us in
truth and love.

2 John 1:3, NIV



2024 Annual Reports
will be available in the Office after
the February 4th Annual
Congregational Meeting.



BOOKS, COFFEE AND DESSERT BOOK CLUB

The book club will meet Thursday, February 1, at 1:30 p.m. in Barb Shifley's home to discuss the book, *The Sweetness of Forgetting*, by Kristen Harmel. Hope McKenna-Smith embarks on a trip of a lifetime; one that takes her through Mamie's haunted past and through her own journey of self-discovery. Join us for discussion, fellowship and dessert. If you would like to know more about the book club, contact Barb Shifley @ 419-756-2651.

CLUB SCHEDULE FEBRUARY – JUNE 2024

<u>DATE</u>	<u>BOOK</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>HOSTESS</u>
Feb 1-	The Sweetness of Forgetting—	Kristen Harmel	@Barb
Mar 7-	The First Ladies—	Marie Benedict & Victoria Murray	Christopher @Katharina
Apr 4-	The Devil in the White City—	Erik Larson	@Carol
May 2-	A Study in Scarlet—	Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	@Bonnie
Jun 6-	The Shell Seekers—	Rosamunde Pilcher	@Marilyn

Holy Carers

Thank you Holy Carers for all your efforts in sending cards, calling on shut ins, & supporting them in different ways. We took care of 15 on the list & several others not on the list.



Your efforts are deeply appreciated & I look forward to working with you again this year.

Blessings,
Mary Steude



HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

525 WEST COOK ROAD
MANSFIELD, OHIO 44907

CONTACT INFORMATION

525 West Cook Road
Mansfield, Ohio 44907
Phone: 419-756-7547
www.HolyTrinityMansfield.org

BUSINESS HOURS:

9:30am-12:30pm Mon-Fri

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to be a Christ-centered Bible-based Church, equipping disciples with Scripture to share the good news of God's reconciling love with conviction, courage and compassion while