

February 2018

Trinity Times

Newsletter
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Experience God. Find Community.



Chocolate! The Festival

Chocolate! will be held on **Saturday, February 10th** from **9am -3pm!** Please invite family, friends and neighbors to come with you! We will have thousands of handmade chocolates! There will also be cake balls, desserts, a cocoa bar, a silent auction, and



more!

If you would like to volunteer to help at Chocolate!, please just show up. We will put you to work!

Ash Wednesday Services

Ash Wednesday services will be held at **noon** and **7:00pm** on **February 14th**.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season when God calls us to reflect on the meaning of Christ's death and resurrection. The imposition of ashes – when you receive ashes in the sign of the cross on your forehead – sets the tone for Lent. Each moment you encounter your reflection, your ashes are a striking reminder that “you are dust, and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19b). But the cross, a symbol of Jesus' crucifixion, offers hope.



People of Salt and Light Bible Study

The study is centered around Matthew's focus on Love as our greatest commandment. We are inviting all of our members and friends to join a Bible Study during Lent.



On Sundays at 10:30am Pastor Jeff will lead a discussion on the Gospel and answer any questions about the sermon. Bible Studies will be held on **Mondays at 11:00am** led by Pastor Jeff; **Tuesdays at 6:30pm** led by Ellen Sullivan; **Wednesdays at 6:00pm** led by Kim Stancl; **Thursdays at 10:30am** led by Candy Grzadziel. The Bible Studies are all the same so you can mix and match which session you will attend each week. All of the studies will be held at Holy Trinity.

Healing Service

A healing service will be part of our worship services on February 3rd and 4th.

In Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service. Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up to health and service. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

Where two or three are gathered, there I am among them. Matthew 18:20

Wednesday Cafe

Wednesday Cafe will be held on **Wednesday, February 21st, at noon**. Come for worship, lunch and fun. We're celebrating Valentine's Day! Sign up on the glass table in the sanctuary so we know how many to plan for. Please invite friends to come with you!

*Ruth Bible Study*

The Ruth Bible Study led by Deaconess Andrea will be held on **Wednesday, February 7th at 10am**. The group will gather around Scripture for coloring and conversation.

*Lenten Lunches*

This year as part of our outreach to our neighborhood, and in cooperation with Elgin Cooperative Ministries, we are holding a Lenten lunch for anyone in need. The lunches are provided by Blue Box Cafe, Arabica Cafe and Jimmy Johns. The lunches will be held from 11:00am - noon on the Wednesdays of Lent. On February 14th, we are offering the impositions of ashes to anyone who would like them. Each guest will also be given a small Valentine's Day gift.



If you would like to help serve lunches or greet people at the door on these Wednesdays, please call the church office or talk to Bob Langlois.

Subs Sandwiches

The youth group will be making and selling sub sandwiches on **Sunday, February 4th**. Subs are \$5 and the proceeds will help them fund their trip to the youth gathering in Houston.

*Chili Cook-Off*

On **Sunday, February 18th**, the youth will hold their 2nd annual Chili Cook-Off during the fellowship hour. Come, taste and vote for your favorite chili. All proceeds will help them fund their trip to the youth gathering.



Monday, February 19th: Lazer Tag - The group will meet at Zion Lutheran Church, 330 Griswold St., for an ice breaker and also explore some connections between Abraham Lincoln and faith. Then it's off to Lazer Maxx for two rounds of Lazer Tag. You'll also get 20 arcade tokens and soda. The cost is \$20. Bring some friends. Let Deaconess Andrea know by February 5th if you are going.

Confirmation Class will be held on February 11th and 25th.

Wrinkle in Time

The book discussion/Bible study will be held on **Tuesday, March 6th at 6:30pm** at Holy Trinity. On **Tuesday, March 13th**, the group will watch the movie at Marcus Theatre. The cost is \$5. (Time to be decided.) All are welcome! Let Deaconess Andrea know if you would like a ticket so we can all sit together.

*Caring Ministry*

As part of continuing our care for our members we are starting a new ministry. We are asking anyone who would like to participate to write down a person who should be notified and their contact information, your medical power of attorney if you have one, and who has a key for your house. Place this information in an envelope, seal it, and bring it to church. Please write your name on the envelope. These papers will be stored in a locked cabinet at church. They will not be opened unless there is a need for your information. In case you have a medical issue, we will be able to contact the proper person to help you.

Baptisms

We celebrated the baptisms of:

Jakob Robert Howarter on January 14th. Jakob is the son of Kristen (Sargent) & Ryan Howarter. Jakob was born June 14, 2017. His godparents are Kasey Howarter, Skyleigh Howarter, and Trevor Vinz.

Cole Walter Witten on January 21st. Cole is the son of Kayte (Kettler) & Dan Witten. Cole was born on March 8th, 2017. His godparents are Katie and Pauly Bachinski.

Birth

Noah Robert Murray was born on January 11th. Congratulations to Chris & Quinn Murray and big brother Mason.

Special Offerings

7 day candle: \$8
altar flowers: \$25
worship folders: \$25
radio broadcast: \$100
newsletter: \$50
wine: \$ 8

The worship folder contains a sign-up sheet for these. Special offerings are a great way to celebrate an occasion or to remember someone.

The fellowship hour needs volunteers to bring treats. Please sign up to host a Sunday.

Annual Meeting

Mary Cook and Heather Friedel were thanked for their years of service on council.

The financial report for 2017 was accepted subject to audit.

The budget for 2018 was approved.

If you would like a copy of the annual report, please stop in the church office and pick one up.

Council

President: Jordan Wildermuth
Vice-President: Jackie Kutina
Secretary: Bruce Woerner
Scott Kolakowski
Bob Jones
Bob Langlois

Worship Times

Saturday: 5:00pm
Sunday: 9:30am

PASTOR'S COLUMN

We embark upon a very important year here at Holy Trinity – a year of Renewal and Vision.

Holy Trinity is an exceptional congregation. We work hard to be connected to our neighbors, to live together as a family, and to be accepting of all people. The surrounding community sees the Gospel of Love and Hope living in us. Just last month, a family who lives nearby sent us a beautiful letter acknowledging that they have watched us welcome in the stranger through our Soup Kettle, Summer Lunch, and After School ministries. They applauded our Love in supplying water during the summer, and hats/gloves during the winter, outside for anyone to take. In turn, this family gave us a \$1,000 donation even though they have no connection to us – simply because we are a Beacon of Light within their community! This is just one example of the myriad of ways that Holy Trinity is truly extraordinary in our impact to the world!

This year began with our Heritage Sunday – a Day of Thanksgiving for all we are and have been. We intentionally gave thanks to God for every person and every ministry that has ever graced our congregation, for a community cannot grow spiritually without always first being thankful to God who gave us birth with purpose and has always provided for our needs!

During Lent, we will participate in a Congregation-wide Bible Study. Everyone is expected to participate! You can pick your leader and time. You can even participate as a family unit in your own household. But this is an exercise for ALL of us. The study is named “People of Salt and Light” – and it focuses upon Jesus’ model of community from the Gospel of Matthew. There are five sessions of this study, and the Lenten worship services and sermon series will also reflect this study. As Lent culminates with Holy Week, this study will provide us with a deeply rich perception of Christ’s passion and sacrifice for us.

The season of Easter will see us gathering as a resurrected people, seeking a deeper understanding of God’s Vision of new life in us today. Discernment is a spiritual exercise, and we are all about growing spiritually in 2018! The work of visioning enables us to take a look at who we are today and how we can better operate as One Body of Christ. Visioning is about discerning our gifts and empowering/supporting one another. Visioning is about unifying our efforts and getting to know each other in deeper friendship. Visioning is about understanding that God has big dreams for us, and we should want to know what they are. This means we will be gathering a couple times as a congregation throughout the Easter season to celebrate who we are and work together to empower one another! We are a resurrected people, and we need to shine brightly with passion and excitement.

Pastor Jeffrey Mikyska