



OUR LENTEN THEME THIS YEAR IS THE BODY OF CHRIST.
OUR BEAUTIFUL LENTEN BANNER IN THE SANCTUARY WAS MADE BY BELINDA BURMEISTER.

THE TRINITARIAN



THE NEWSLETTER OF
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Pastor Warren Graff, Vacancy Pastor
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Bible Classes and Sunday School 9:00 AM
Divine Service 10:15 AM



MARCH 2026 -- VOLUME 61 No. 3

LENT – THE BODY OF CHRIST

As we begin this season of Lent, a time of reflection and repentance prior to the celebration of our Lord and Savior’s glorious resurrection, we would like to encourage you to attend the Lenten services led by Pastor John Flamme. The theme for each service is listed on the back of the weekly bulletin. The Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be very special. We will NOT have a “Son Rise” service this Easter but will have the usual Easter breakfast prior to the 10:15 AM service led by Pastor Graff.

The elders are available to help fulfill the spiritual needs of the congregation any time. Our names and contact information are:

Bob Klose

(575) 491-3407

Email: b.klose@hotmail.com

Allen Burmeister

(832) 817-3454

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Matt Clark

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Dick Dommers

(575) 285-2023

crabapple40@outlook.com

Please feel free to contact any of us if you need help, have a family emergency, are hospitalized, etc.

We covet your prayers that God will lead and guide us all as we await the Shepherd He has selected to become our new pastor.

Trinity Board of Elders

EVANGELISM



Tract of the Month: What about The Small Catechism -What is the Small Catechism? Why did Luther write the Small Catechism? What is the benefit of the Small Catechism? How can the Small Catechism be used in the life of the individual Christian? How can the Catechism be used in congregations? **These questions, and more, are answered in this tract by Dr. A. L. Barry, former President of The LCMS.**

Mission for March / April: LCMS Disaster Response: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s Disaster Response ministry responds to immediate and long-term needs following natural and man-made disasters. Learn more at the following website: lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/disaster-response

Other communication from the Evangelism Committee: The Evangelism Committee will meet again on Monday, March 9th, at 5:30 pm.

Your servants in Christ,
The Evangelism Committee

2026 LENTEN SCHEDULE

March, 4, 2026, Midweek 3	7:00 P.M.
The Mouth of Christ – Luke 4:14-22a	
Lenten Supper	
March, 11, 2026, Midweek 4	7:00 P.M.
The Ears of Christ – Mark 7:31-37	
Lenten Supper	
March, 18, 2026, Midweek 5	7:00 P.M.
The Eyes of Christ – John 9:1-11	
Lenten Supper	
March, 25, 2026, Midweek 6	7:00 P.M.
The Heart of Christ – John 11:17-44	
Lenten Supper	

GUEST PASTOR FOR MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE: REV. JOHN A. FLAMME

April 2, 2026, Maundy Thursday (with Holy Communion)	7:00 p.m.
The Blood of Christ – Luke 22:7-20	
April 3, 2026, Good Friday Tenebrae	7:00 P.M.
The Body of Christ Crucified – John 19:17-30	
April 5, 2026, Easter Sunday	10:15 A.M.
The Risen Body of Christ – Luke 24:1-12	

EASTER SERVICE - REV. WARREN GRAFF

EASTER BREAKFAST – BETWEEN 8:30 AND 9:30 AM.
EASTER EGG HUNT – FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE



TRINITY STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

“Lent...A Time of Repentance and Renewal”

Why do Lutheran Churches have Mid-Week Lenten Services? We know and believe we are sinners for whom our heavenly Father sent His Son, Jesus, to live a perfect life for us, suffer and die to pay the penalty for our sins, and rose victoriously from the dead. God forgives us declaring us righteous.

Dr. Martin Luther Writes: “Here again is an admonition for Christians to follow up their faith by good works and new life, for although they have forgiveness of sins, the Old Adam still adheres to the flesh and makes itself felt in tendencies and desires to vices physical and mental...Yea, even those who gladly hear the Word of God, who highly prize it, and aim to follow it, have daily need of admonition and encouragement, so strong and tough is that old hide of our sinful flesh. And so powerful and wiley is the old evil foe that wherever he can gain enough of an opening to insert one of his claws, he thrusts in his whole self...”

Galatians 5:17 says our flesh is all too sluggish to heed the Spirit, and all too able to resist it “*For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh...that you do not do the things you should.*”

So even though God declares us righteous, (**NOT** makes us righteous), through faith in Christ we daily struggle against our sinful nature. The struggles and repentance of Paul come to mind in Romans 7:24-25 “*What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Christ our Lord.*” Followed by Romans 8:1 *Therefore, there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ.*”

Pastor John Flamme reminded us: “*Lent is a season of repentance and renewal*” a time “*to meditate on our Savior’s passion ~ His suffering and death so that we might more deeply appreciate His sacrifice that saves us and grow spiritually into a deeper relationship with Christ our Lord.*”

So, yes indeed, we need to use the time God gives us at all times to hear the Gospel message of our Savior’s passionate love for all people. God also gives us his Law to “*guide and direct our thoughts, words, and deeds as Christians in God-pleasing ways.*” (Luther’s Catechism page 55)

“*I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.*” Romans 1:16

In Jesus name,
Lola Ableidinger, Stewardship Chair

TRINITY LWML

In February we celebrated with our Meal for Mites on Sunday, February 15th with chicken casseroles, salad, green beans, and of course desserts. We had approximately 35 guests and raised \$430 for our Missions. Thank you to everyone who cooked, set up, cleaned up and attended. It was a nice time for fellowship.

The Saturday prior, on Valentine's Day we held a quick meeting prior to our meal prep. Thank you to Yvonne Steeby and Susan Kelly who were our hosts. We had a few business items of importance.

1. Our current bank (Wells Fargo) was going to add charges to our account if we kept less than \$2,000 in the account. It was approved to move our banking account to Pioneer Bank where there would not be additional charges incurred. This action was completed the week of the 15th.
2. It was also noted that the Rio Grande Spring Rally will be held on Saturday, March 28th at San Pablo Lutheran Church in El Paso. Registration begins at 0930, with Fellowship and Bible Study to follow. There will be an Ingathering for San Pablo school distribution. The items needed are Kleenex, Hand sanitizer, Dry Erase Markers, and Clorox Wipes. It would be my guess that all sizes would be of help. The theme is: **FAITH that can move MOUNTAINS Matthew 17:20b** Please make plans to join us as we caravan to El Paso.
2. Susan Kelly and Vicki Leonard volunteered to head the nominating committee for this year. The two offices that will be up for consideration are **President and Treasurer**. Diane Kline has volunteered and is eligible to run for Treasurer. Please prayerfully consider if you might fill either position. We will be contacting individuals soon. Elections are in April.
3. We will hold a meeting on Saturday, March 10th because not everyone is able to attend the Spring Rally. Meeting will be at 10 am.
5. In April our Mission Ingathering is for the Center of Protection Environment (COPE). Watch for more news in next month's newsletter as a list will be posted with their needs.

We are in the Lenten Season preparing for Easter so continue attending our regular Sunday services but don't miss out on our Lenten Services on Wednesday evenings, you even get fed food prior as well spiritually fed during the service.

LCMS Lenten prayers focus on repentance, the sufferings of Christ, and reliance on His mercy, often using the formula "Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer." Key themes include confession, clinging to the Word, and preparing to receive the Sacrament, with resources available through the [LCMS Document Library](#) and [LCMS worship services](#).

Yours in Christ,
Vicki Leonard, LWML President

EDUCATION

The Education Committee met on Sunday, February 8th after church service. There were three members in attendance.

Old Business: Purchasing new Sunday School materials was discussed and it was decided to utilize the books and workbooks available in the library for the rest of this school year. Short lesson plans would be written for each month's lessons.

New Business: Sue Kelly will be checking into the cost to purchase children's bulletins to be passed out at the beginning of regular Sunday services. More information to be given at the next meeting.

The first Congregational Activity for 2026 will be on Sunday, March 15 after church service. It will be a Potato Bar with all the toppings and desserts. The Education Committee will provide baked potatoes and drinks. Sign-up sheets for number attending and toppings/desserts will be posted on the Education bulletin board by Sunday, February 22.

Stacy Johnson suggested we might ask the other committees to help sponsor the second and third quarter Congregational Activity days, and we would sponsor the first and fourth ones. Sue said she would bring it up at the next Board of Directors meeting as an outreach within our church.

The Education Committee usually hosts Easter breakfast between services. It was suggested to make it a joint committee hosting with Evangelism and Stewardship working with Education. It will be brought up at the next Board of Directors for feedback and discussion.

The Education Committee will continue to sponsor the Easter Egg Hunt after service on Easter Sunday. More details to come at a later date.

Sue will check with Abby Anderson when her spring break falls to see if she will be able to host another Youth Activity Day during spring break. More details to come at the next meeting.

There was no other new business. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Your friend in Christ,
Susan Kelly, Director of Education

CONGRATULATIONS

Zechariah (Zac) Collins, has been promoted to an E5 Sargent in US Army. Zac is stationed in Germany. His mom is Lisa Collins and he is the grandson of Nora and Rick Sotak.

Brendon Garritano, has been promoted to Staff Sargent in the US Airforce and he and his wife Rebekah are stationed in Alaska. Brendon is the son-in-law of Jill and Matt Clark and the grandson of Nora and Rick Sotak.

MARCH 2026 STEWARDS FOR CHRIST

ELDERS

March 1 Matt Clark
March 4 Matt Clark (Midweek Lent)
March 8 Bob Klose
March 11 Bob Klose (Midweek Lent)
March 15 Dick Dommers
March 18 Dick Dommers
(Midweek Lent)
March 22 Matt Clark
March 25 Matt Clark (Midweek Lent)
March 29 Allen Burmeister

SERMON

March 8 Allen Burmeister
March 22 Bob Klose
March 29 Dick Dommers

LITURGIST

March 8 Bob Klose
March 22 Matt Clark
March 29 Allen Burmeister

TELLERS

March 1 Nora Sotak
Linde Van Cleave
March 8 Lola Ableidinger
Cheryl Sandenaw
March 15 Susan Kelly & Sandy Klose
March 22 Bob Klose & Joyce Macon
March 29 Yvonne Steeby
Becky Worley

HOSTS

March 1 Nora Sotak & Yvonne Steeby
March 8 Bob & Jan Thede
March 15 Irwin Torres--Merry Zumwalt
March 22 Larry & Bev Van Duyn
March 29 Robert & Stacy Johnson

USHERS

March 1 Tom Blackmon, Jim Fladhammer
Larry & Bev Van Duyn
March 8 Susan Kelly, Norbert Sanchez
Glen & Christine Schlehuser
March 15 Robert Johnson, Trey Johnson
Bob and Tammy Thede
March 22 Bob & Sandy Klose,
Gerald Klose, Irvin Torres
March 29 Volunteers

SOUND TECH

March 1 Vicki Leonard
March 4 Vicki Leonard (Midweek Lent)
March 8 Sheri Cortez
March 11 Sheri Cortez (Midweek Lent)
March 15 Matt Anderson
March 18 Matt Anderson (Midweek Lent)
March 22 Jim Kline
March 25 Jim Kline (Midweek Lent)
March 29 Vicki Leonard

MARCH FLOWERS

March 1 Gerald & Gayan Moore
March 8 Robert & Susan Rentschler
March 15 Bob & Jan Thede
March 22 Wilma Jaecks
Hank & Rosanne Wehmeyer
March 29 Jim & Hannah Keeler

MARCH ALTAR COMMITTEE

Diane Kline
Cheryl Richey

MARCH ATTENDANCE

Diane Kline

MUSIC

Michael Cortez

