

Trinity's Weekly Connection

Sunday, March 19, 2023 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

This Week at Trinity Lutheran Church

Sunday, March 19

Personal Hygiene Products Appeal continues
Traditional Worship, 8 a.m.
Rejoice Worship (Beyond Belief band), 9:15 a.m.
Live Streaming of Worship, 9:15 and 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School, 9:20 a.m.
Traditional Worship, 10:45 a.m.
Fifth Grade Communion Class, 2 p.m.
Celebration of Music Concert Series
Calvin University Women's Chorus, 3 p.m.
Middle School Service Project, 3 p.m.
High School Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.
Lenten Virtual Bible Study & Yoga, 8 p.m.

Monday, March 20

Stroller Barre, 9 a.m.
Rejoice Band Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.
Health Ministries Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Schubert Male Chorus Rehearsal, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 21

Lenten Grace Group, 9:30 a.m.
LWR Quilters, 9:30 a.m.
Fitness Classes, 10 a.m.
Care & Share, 10:30 a.m.
Lenten Grace Group, noon
GriefShare, 2 p.m.
Lenten Grace Group, 7 p.m.
Tuesday Book Club, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 22

Lenten Grace Group, 10:30 a.m.
Lenten Grace Group, 5 p.m.
Lenten Soup Supper, 5:30 p.m.
Lenten Midweek Worship, 6:30 p.m.
Fit4Baby, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 23

Fitness Classes, 10 a.m.
Resound Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Trinity Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 p.m.

Friday, March 24

Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, March 25

Visitation with Janet Konen's family, 10 a.m.
Memorial Service for Janet Konen, 11 a.m.

Sunday, March 26

Personal Hygiene Products Appeal continues
Fifth Grade Blessing & Presentation of Study Bibles
Traditional Worship, 8 a.m.
First Communion Reception, 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Rejoice Worship (Rejoice band), 9:15 a.m.
Live Streaming of Worship, 9:15 and 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School, 9:20 a.m.
Heart-to-Heart, 10:30 a.m.
Traditional Worship, 10:45 a.m.
Lenten Virtual Bible Study & Yoga, 8 p.m.

Assisting in Worship This Morning

8:00 a.m.

Sacristan: Elaine Rongey
Lector: Gloria Von der Heide
Communion Assistants: Elaine Rongey, Betty Hall
Ushers: Erick Kind, Chad and Jenna Mencarelli
Acolyte: Isaac Johnson

9:15 a.m.

Beyond Belief band leading worship
Sacristans: Don and Judy Otten
Lector: Dan Butler
Communion Assistants: Mike Mason, Steve Stephan
Ushers: Carol & Dan Butler, John Hall, Kathy Noble,
Jim Willman
Acolyte: Sydney Waite

10:45 a.m.

Cantor: Sid Hoeksema
Sacristan: Dolly Lowe
Lector: Jim Coates
Communion Assistants: Michael Mulligan, Jo Murphy
Ushers: Steve Cairns, Paul Getzin, Lois McCardell,
Joe & Marybeth Iaria, Jim Vanderwall
Acolytes: Ethan Curtiss, Oscar Heaford

Bread Baker: Kelli Basher

Trinity Members in Our Prayers

We pray for **Trinity members in times of illness, hospitalization, rehabilitation and recovery**: Sue Bailey, Lisa Barkema, Don Barsema, Bob Beaudry, Krysta Billock, Jim and Sue Boyse, Bill Brock, Pat Bruin, Ellie Buggeln, Cheryl Bushman, Mike Danielski, Donna Erickson, Ruth Ann Evans, Diane Field, Mark Hahn, Beth Hall, Bob Heine, Callan Hughes, Carol Huttenga, Patricia Johnson, Roy Lamprich, Marilyn Leese, Jane Legault, Kristin Linkfield, Ken Lown, Tess Lundgren, Judy Mallen, Tom Mannisto, Rebecca Mattison, Gail Mazurek, Carolyn McCready, Jill McKinney, Stephanie McLeod, Marilyn Mellema, Charmayne Mulligan, Jo Murphy, Craig Mutch, Bertie Nelson, Jesse Platt, Rick Radke, Jacqueline Riegling, Denny Rosen, Marian Schaible, Chas Schaner, Chris Schomberg, Lee Schomberg, Luanna Seyffert, Michael Smith, Patricia Stevens, Dale Volkerding, John Walls, Fred and Kathy Wilcox, Robert Williams, Rick and Michelle Wolner, David Young, Kay Zeaman, Kathryn Zielinski and Cindy Zientarski.

We also lift up **Trinity families mourning the loss of loved ones**: Kelli and John Basher, George Bauer, Jennifer Brown, Bill and Patricia Bruin, Jim and Sue Coates, Morgan and Jaci Cole, Jack Danielson, Julie Earhart, Pastor Donna Erickson, David and Pastor Kari Fast, Diane Field, Sharon Fourcha, Eric Gohlke, Keith Gohlke, Bob and Nanci Guigue, Jill and Curtis Hahn, Carol Hendricks, Linda Holm, Brad and Gayl Kessel, Mike and Molly King, Terry and Susan Knoll, Beth Krueger, Kent and Kristin Linkfield, Mark and Rebecca Mattison, Matt and Lisa Mead, Craig and Patti Mutch, Tammy Parat, Kris Racek, Bruce and Joyce Schlenderer, Doug and Joan Start, Linda Taffs, and Phillip Youngman.

We also lift up in prayer this week Pastor Edward Ruble and the people of St. Peter Lutheran Church in Battle Creek, partners with us in mission and ministry in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA.

Readings & Hymns for March 19

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

#522	As We Gather at Your Table (red book)
#779	Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound (red book)
#966	Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken (purple book)

MARCH 19, 2023
FOURTH SUNDAY
IN LENT



Faith sees while absolute certainty blinds.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 9:1-41	The man born blind
Monday	1 Samuel 16:1-13	David is anointed king
Tuesday	Ephesians 5:8-14	Living as people of light
Wednesday	Jeremiah 1:4-19	Jeremiah's call
Thursday	Proverbs 15:1-5	The Lord sees everything
Friday	Luke 19:1-10	Jesus and Zacchaeus
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	John 11:1-45	The raising of Lazarus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." John 9:39 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of justice and mercy, heal us of our blindness that keeps us from loving you and our neighbor through Jesus Christ, the one who came that we may see. Amen.

Mealtide Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food that reminds us of your overflowing goodness and mercy through Christ Jesus, our shepherd. Amen. (Psalm 23)

A Blessing to Give:

May Christ's love shine on you with all that is good and right and true. (Ephesians 5)



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MARCH 19, 2023
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Christ, Be Our Light



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Think or talk about a time you were in a conversation and convinced you were right.
- How is faith in Jesus something different than being sure that you are right and others are wrong?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 9:1-41.

This story addresses extreme contrasts between sight and blindness, between those who see and those who do not see. Jesus heals a man born blind. The certainty of the Pharisees becomes their blindness. They try to refute the fact that the man was born blind. They despise him and drive him out for stating both the truth of the Jewish faith and saying that he was blind and now sees. Both the truth of the tradition and his experience are totally rejected. Jesus points out that it is the leaders' absolute certainty that shows how blind they are to the truth. There are times in our own lives when being absolutely certain about something and not seeking other possibilities shows our blindness. This story reminds us that faith and trust in Jesus is wiser and more honest than arrogant, self-confidence. Faith sees Jesus and his ability to create light and life. Human certainty is always in danger of being blind to who Jesus is and what he means for the world that God loves.

Discuss: How might your pride, sense of certainty, and arrogance get in the way of caring about others?

Pray: **God of truth, help us to let go of anything that blinds us to your love and work in the world so that we may see Jesus and follow him with faith, hope, and love. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you address others with humility and the ability to learn from them?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Lent is a period of forty days when we focus on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as we prepare for Easter. Almsgiving is the tradition or practice of giving money or food to those in need. This week think or talk about the needs of those who are blind or cannot see well. Some are unable to pay for glasses or receive medical care. Add a donation to the Almsgiving Box placed in your home. The collected money is to be donated at the end of Lent.

Pray: **Loving God, help us to care for those in need of good eyesight. We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org