

Trinity's Weekly Connection

Sunday, January 28, 2024 — Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

This Week at Trinity Lutheran Church

Sunday, January 28

Clean Start Appeal continues
Traditional Worship, 8 a.m.
Kids Coalition Against Hunger Meal Packing Set Up, 8 a.m.
Rejoice Worship (Rejoice band), 9:15 a.m.
Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
Live Streaming of Worship, 9:15 and 10:45 a.m.
Kids Coalition Against Hunger Meal Packing, 10:15 a.m.
Traditional Worship, 10:45 a.m.
Celebration of Music Concert: Voices of Extraordinary Youth, 3 p.m.

Monday, January 29

Stroller Barre, 9 a.m.
Adult Education Forum with Pastor Dennis, 10:30 a.m.
Beyond Belief Band Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Schubert Male Chorus Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Adult Education Forum with Pastor Dennis, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 30

LWR Quilters, 9:30 a.m.
Stephen Ministry Continuing Education, 6:30 p.m.
Fit4Baby, 7 p.m.
Stephen Ministry Peer Support Group, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 31

Fitness Class, 10 a.m.
Food For Thought, 5:30 p.m.
Odyssey of the Mind, 6 p.m.
Pack 3015 Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 1

Resound Bell Rehearsal 6 p.m.
Choosing Peace and Serenity AFG, 7 p.m.
Trinity Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 p.m.

Friday, February 2

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

Saturday, February 3

Private Event, 10 a.m.

Sunday, February 4

Clean Start Appeal continues
Sponsor the Synod Gathering Fund begins
Traditional Worship, 8 a.m.
Rejoice Worship (Beyond Belief band), 9:15 a.m.
High School Bible Study, 9:15 a.m.
Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
Live Streaming of Worship, 9:15 and 10:45 a.m.
Traditional Worship, 10:45 a.m.
Middle School Youth Group, 2 p.m.
Confirmation Class, 3 p.m.
High School Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Assisting in Worship This Morning

8 a.m.

Cantor: Debbie Duckworth
Sacristans: Cathy Olson
Lector: Kathy Wilcox
Communion Assistants: Betty Hall, Marcia Schaner
Ushers: Bob Carwell, Jack Reichert
Acolytes: Ethan Schaefer

9:15 a.m.

Rejoice band leading worship
Sacristan: Glenn Swanson
Lector: Susan Barnhart
Communion Assistants: Chris & Kim Engle
Ushers: Steve & Nate Bennett, Pam Burkle, Bill Bush, Tim Lundgren, Karen Nagle
Acolytes: TBD

10:45 a.m.

Cantor: Deb DeWitt
Sacristan: John & Elizabeth Derbin
Lector: Jim Boles
Communion Assistants: Debra Freeberg, Jan Jacobson
Ushers: Kara Day, Carol Hendricks, David Kuecherer, Jordan Wiseman
Acolytes: TBD

Bread Baker: Dawn Brackmann and Kris Fox

Trinity Members in Our Prayers

We pray for **Trinity members in times of illness, hospitalization, rehabilitation and recovery**: Sue Bailey, Lisa Barkema, Don Barsema, David Benkert, Krysta Billock, Bev Block, Ken Block, Sue Boyse, Pat Bruin, Dan Butler, Mike Danielski, Kim Danielski, Gordy Engstrom, Ruth Ann Evans, Diane Field, Kris Fox, Richard Gehl, Elena Griewahn, Elwyn Griewahn, Bob Heine, Callan Hughes, Carol Huttenga, Mary Johnson, Patricia Johnson, Isaac (Ike) Keller, Grace Lanning, John Leese, Marilyn Leese, Jane Legault, Judy Mullen, Tom Mannisto, Rebecca Mattison, Stephanie McLeod, Laura Norton, Julia Pfeiffle, Jesse Platt, Jacqueline Riegling, Denny Rosen, Marian Schaible, Chas Schaner, Chris Schomberg, Lee Schomberg, Bob Sielaff, Dave Smoes, John Walls, Robert Williams, Rick Wolner, Michelle Wolner, David Young, Kathy Young, and Kathryn Zielinski.

We also lift up **Trinity families mourning the loss of loved ones**: Albert Asfour, Maria Ashimine, Greg and Rachele Battreall, Carrie and David Boer, Beverly and John Bosserman, Liz and Jason Coles, Jack Danielson, Scott and Corina Dulecki, Julie Earhart, Jon Ferguson, Diane Field, John and Kris Fox, Mary Frick, Josh and Katie Gardner, Susan and Terry Knoll, Joni and Steve Korb, Beth Krueger, Kristen Lamprich, Kent and Kristin Linkfield, Wendy and Jim Mielock, Dave and Julie Murray, Patrick and Jacquie Murray, Debbie and John Potter, Kathy Sommers, Jonathan and Jennifer Sommers, Sylvia and Bill Stouten, Linda Taffs, Wollen/Billings families and Natalie Yeager.

We also lift up in prayer this week Pastor Janice Hite and the people of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Lansing, partners with us in ministry North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA.

Readings & Hymns for January 28

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Psalm 111 Mark 1:21-28

#665 Rise, Shine, You People! (red book)
#655 Son of God, Eternal Savior (red book)
#434 Jesus Shall Reign (red book)

NOTE: For your safety, when it snows, avoid parking on the hill near the kitchen entrance. The hill becomes very icy.

JANUARY 28, 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY



Jesus shows his power over evil.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

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| Sunday | Mark 1:21-28 | Jesus teaches in the synagogue |
| Monday | Deuteronomy 18:15-20 | A new prophet like Moses |
| Tuesday | 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 | Love builds up others |
| Wednesday | Acts 10:34-43 | Gentiles hear the good news |
| Thursday | Luke 4:31-37 | The man with the unclean spirit |
| Friday | Matthew 4:1-11 | The temptation of Jesus |
| Saturday | Psalms 111 | Praise for God's wonderful works |
| Sunday | Mark 1:29-39 | Jesus heals many people |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

They [worshippers] were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching-with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." Mark 1:27 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of power and might, we thank you for being with us in the challenges of life; help us to live lives of praise to you through Jesus Christ, the Holy One of God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, in your grace and mercy you remember us and feed us. We thank you for this meal and your faithfulness to all. In Jesus' name, amen. (Psalm 111:4-7)

A Blessing to Give:

May the power of God protect you through Jesus.



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JANUARY 28, 2024

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*God of Grace and
God of Glory*



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 felt your life was out of control.
- Do you turn to God when life feels out of control? Explain.

DEVOTIONS



Read: Mark 1:21-28.

It is revealing that in this reading in Mark, the first act of Jesus beyond teaching is an exorcism. What is doubly revealing is that in the Gospel of John, there are no exorcisms. For Mark, this act of Jesus is critical. A man with an unclean spirit was helpless in the face of powers he could not control. Sin, the human condition of brokenness and alienation from God, is the fundamental power that we cannot control. Whatever form it takes, an unclean spirit taps into a life that needs redemption. The unclean spirits of murder, adultery, false witness, racism, and more are examples of our readiness to thoughts and actions that destroy instead of give life. Jesus came to redeem us so that we may live lives of praise to God and love for all others. It is quite fitting that Jesus' first act is an exorcism. Jesus will do battle with myriad forms of human brokenness and win. This is Mark's way of describing the "beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (Mark 1:1).

Discuss: How would you describe the good news of Jesus for us?

Pray: **Almighty and merciful God, we give you praise for your power that conquers evil for the sake of all that you have created through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help someone who feels powerless over a specific situation?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



February 2 is the Church festival day for the "Presentation of the Lord." The festival recalls that forty days after his birth, Jesus was presented at the temple in Jerusalem. This festival is also known as "Candlemas" because of the tradition of blessing candles for use throughout the coming year. This is associated with Simeon's words about Jesus being "a light to reveal God to the nations." (Luke 2:32) Light a new candle to use this year as part of your devotions and pray: **Lord God, thank you for giving us Jesus as a bright light in our lives. Bless us as we gather around this candle. May it remind us that Jesus is with us. Amen.**



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