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TRINITY LUTHERAN C H U R C H A N D S C H O O L

Reverend John Hopkins – Senior Pastor
Jennifer Forte – Acting Principal | Carolyn Gallegos – ECC Director



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The Good News

March 2019
Volume 3 No. 3
Page 1



IT IS THAT TIME

Lent is here. Ash Wednesday is March 6!

How come it is so late? How do we know when Lent will begin anyway?

To figure out when Lent begins, you first have to know the date of Easter Sunday. How do you know when that will be?

First, the easy way to figure out when Easter will be... On Sunday morning, open your hymnal to page xxiii in the front part. There you will find "Dates of Easter." It lists the dates of Easter from 2007 through 2050. Can't get any easier than that.

But for those who really want to know, it also gives an explanation on how to arrive at the date.

"Easter is always the Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox on March 21. This full moon may happen on any date between March 21 and April 18 inclusive. If the full moon falls on a Sunday, Easter Day is the Sunday following. Easter Day cannot be earlier than March 22 or later than April 25.

Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls in the seventh week before Easter. The Ascension of our Lord occurs on a Thursday, forty days after Easter Day. The Day of Pentecost is seven weeks, or the fiftieth day, after Easter Day."

The last time Easter fell on the earliest day possible of March 22, was in 1818. The next possible time it will be on March 22 will be 2285. The next most early date Easter may fall on is March 23. This happened 11 years ago in 2008.

Easter for this year will be on April 21. This being one of the later dates. The latest Easter can be is April 25. The last time this happened was in 1943. The next time it will be on this date will be 2038.

So for this year, when will that all important full moon be that lands on or after March 21? Friday April 19, 2016. Therefore, Easter will be on the first Sunday following: April 21, 2019.

[Now for those of you who keep track of such things, this year, the spring equinox is March 20 and the full moon is also on March 20. So, why isn't Easter on Sunday, March 24, 2019? As it turns out, to make things a little simpler for the Christian Church, the spring equinox was determined to always be on March 21. (In reality, the spring equinox can happen on March 19, 20, or 21.) This is why the full moon in April of this year was used.]

Knowing the date of Easter, we can figure out when Lent will begin: Go seven weeks prior to Easter, on the Wednesday of that week, we arrive on the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019.

Now to remember the date for Easter next year, keep this article to figure it out, or go to your hymnal and look it up any ol' Sunday. 😊

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Some of you may have friends who are of the Orthodox Church such as Greek Orthodox. Their date for Easter will generally fall one week to several weeks after we celebrate Easter. They use another calendar, the Julian Calendar. (We use the Gregorian Calendar.) I'll not go into the difference between the two. But that is why they have a different date. I'll let them explain to you the difference.

Now after all of this, remember, Lent is a time of reflection on what Jesus went through... namely His persecution, suffering and death, that we might be forgiven of our sins. This is why Lent is such a beneficial time of the church year to recall how much Jesus truly loves us.

Serving the Lord with you,
Pastor Hopkins

The Good News
From the Minister of Music



On March 31 at the 9:00 am service, we will have a special treat as we combine our children's choirs and adult choir together to sing Jack Noble White's "The First Song of Isaiah" a setting of that Sunday's Old Testament lesson, Isaiah 12:2-6. As I write this, I have just heard of a friend who lost their life to cancer, and I know another battling the same disease. Yet with all of the sadness and worry in our lives, we have a confident hope because of the truth of this scripture set to song. "Surely it is God who saves me. I will trust in Him and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense and He will be my Savior."

In this scripture set to song the physical and spiritual weakness of human flesh, the fear, the doubt, the overwhelming sorrow, is lifted with the melody as our singing is joined and supported and sustained by an invisible cloud of witnesses for whom the song is more true than we can at present imagine. Surely it is God who saves me... It is a song of defiant faith against all that would wither the soul with doubt and fear. Surely it is God who saves me... It is a song of courage for times of trial and a song of comfort for times of sorrow. Surely it is God who saves me... a song for all our days until at last we reach the endless tomorrow. Surely it is God who saves me. To hear our combined Trinity voices singing that truth of scripture during our service, I hope brings hope, for all that need God's assurance.

Henry DeVries,
Minister of Music



April 27, 2019
7:00pm
NDW Praise Band
Coffee House

Watch for more info in the coming weeks!



This year the Board of Stewardship is focusing on the importance of prayer. The Bible tells us to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17). How do we do that?

A lot of us have trouble praying. Outside of the church liturgy we may rarely engage in prayer except when we have a need or burden, or when we or someone we love is ill or in crisis. It is good to pray at such times, but if we want to deepen our relationship with Jesus, if we want to grow in our faith, we should pray more often. As a Baptist, then a Charismatic, then an evangelical, I learned a prayer model that was systematically enforced on me by legalistic preachers and teachers. This model demanded I pray at set times in the day, preferably in the morning. The best prayer times lasted at least

30 minutes to an hour, if not more. Great preachers claimed to pray for two or three hours before dawn.

As a Charismatic, I found this model somewhat easier to follow because I discovered, as did others, that I could pray in a prayer language for great lengths of time, never knowing or even caring what I was saying. As foolish as this seems now, I had to follow a set prayer ritual for those who did not do so were deemed to be spiritually weak, if not downright sinful.

But I had trouble with that model I was taught. It was not satisfying, edifying or joyful. I found that prayer was easier if I prayed spontaneously throughout the day rather than at set times. I found it more enlightening to pray conversationally, for, after all, prayer is a conversation with God. I did not have to use flowery or formal King James English or a prayer language, but plain old fashioned Brooklyn-ese. I soon discovered relief from ritual prayer burdens others laid on me through the concept of long wandering prayer.

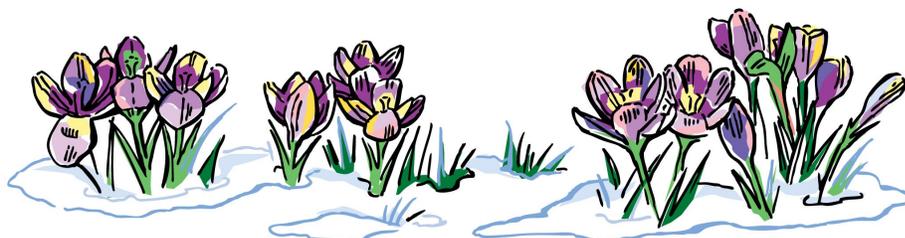
Long wandering prayer is based on grace and not legalistic rules. It does not follow the traditional formulas yet it describes exactly what my own prayer experience is like, and maybe yours. I pray long prayers, in a stream of consciousness manner. I pray while walking the streets of my town, shopping, doing work around the house, trying to fall asleep, when I wake up in the middle of the night and even when watching TV. I pray to thank God, to voice my concerns, express my doubts, and, especially, complain about those things that frustrate me. For prayer is as easy as a conversation in which we tell God what is on our mind. And very often the weakest prayer we pray can actually be the greatest because that is when the Holy Spirit helps us. "God be merciful to me, a sinner." (Luke 18:13)

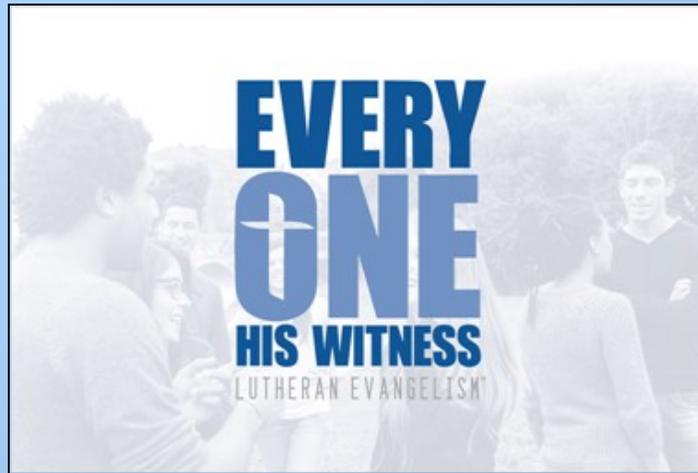
Deacon Anthony Cavaliere



NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

... for the April 2019 issue are due no later than noon on Friday, March 22!





We at Trinity are seeking to encourage our members to witness to people about our faith. This may seem a daunting task for many of us, one which we tend to shy away from. Yet there are many opportunities that surround us if we remain open to the leading of the Lord. These opportunities are uniquely tailored for us in the context of our personal lives. They may arise even when aren't planning on or looking for them. But as the Spirit of the Lord leads, we can recognize them when they arrive and use them a means to bless someone with a word of hope, an act of kindness, an attitude of grace, a little time, or a little help.

Though these opportunities are often unforeseen, we can become more intentional and consistent in seeking them out. We can go about doing good for the people regularly within our reach such as our relatives, neighbors, co-workers, and even strangers on the street.

Not sure how to witness? 'LASSIE' may be the answer. No, not the collie or the young Scottish girl. Produced by the LCMS, LASSIE is the relational, contextual witnessing approach that teaches believers to naturally share the Good News of Jesus Christ as we Listen-Ask-Seek-Share-Invite-and-Encourage people in our lives who are not yet part of the Church. In the near future, Trinity is planning on facilitating this 6 part workshop which will be taught via video.

We need at least 6 people to enroll. Completion of the Every One His Witness workshop unlocks online participation in context modules like witnessing to members of different world religions or cults (Islam, Judaism, Mormonism) as well as to people who are unchurched or dechurched, and those experiencing difficult life events. Interested? Contact Deacon Anthony ACavaliere@trinityhicksville.org.

The Good News

Trinity Lutheran School 65th Anniversary News



1954-2018

Planning for our 65th Anniversary Dinner on May 10, 2019 is underway. Formal invitations will be sent out at the end the March. As part of this celebration, we will be honoring those who have dedicated themselves to the life of Trinity Lutheran Church and School. This year, we will be honoring Eileen Heigl, Christine and Roger Koopmann, and Henry DeVries. This month we will also have 65th Anniversary car magnets available for purchase to commemorate this milestone year.



Honor, Serve, Provide Capital Campaign Update

Within less than a year the *Honor, Serve, Provide* Capital Campaign Committee is proud to update you on the projects we announced would be completed in the three-year timeframe. Our goal of \$210,000 is within reach already – now at **\$206,914.00** pledged and donated with **\$139,341.00** received as of February 1, 2019.

To date we have:

- increased our affiliation with the Lutheran Counseling Center (making more services available to both Church and School families)
- installed the carpet in the Sanctuary
- renovated and upgraded materials for the K-8 Science Room
- improved the quality and energy efficiency of the parking lot lighting
- improved the security of both church and school with a new front door
- intercom and additional security cameras throughout Trinity's property
- provided scholarships for the 2018-19 school year.

In addition to these planned projects the *Honor, Serve, Provide* initiative also funded a new grease trap in the kitchen which a recent Health Department site visit required. Assistance was also provided for the completion of the installation of the organ.

Other planned capital campaign projects which have been started include:

- sealing the church from the elements and replacing and repairing windows on the church and school. The window portion of the project has been completed. We are looking to warmer weather to complete the "sealing of the church from the elements" portion of this project.
- a number of improvements to the heating system have been accomplished, repairs and the replacement of a 100-gallon water heater are finished. Additional work on the school heating system will have to wait until the cold weather has passed.
- lighting replacement in the hallways, stairways and in the multipurpose room has begun with installation of energy efficient lighting. The replacement of ceiling tiles is being looked into now.

We have yet to plan and bid additional projects discussed from the beginning of the campaign including :additional aspects of our facilities infrastructure and utility replacement and renovation

From your pledges and gifts to the campaign, made in this first year, we have approximately \$70,000 available to continue working on these endeavors. Your pledges paid over the next two years as well as memorial gifts given to the *Honor, Serve, Provide* capital campaign will allow us to fulfill our commitment to you.

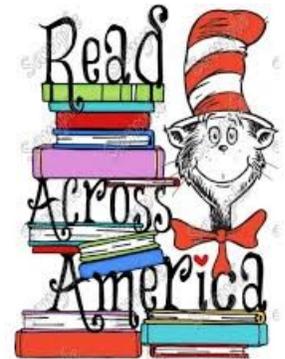


If you did not pick up your envelopes yet please stop by the Narthex to get them. Also if you see a neighbors, please take them and drop them off, it would be appreciated.



1954-2018

Our students just finished celebrating *Read Across America*. *Read Across America* is an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on March 2, the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss. Additionally, students in kindergarten and first grade celebrated the 100th Day of School. Students participated in a number of activities including a visit from the Singing Bus Driver.



The bathrooms and locker rooms across from the gymnasium will be renovated at the end of June. This was made possible by all of the wonderful fundraising efforts of the PTFA.

Our next open house is scheduled for March 9, from 10:00am to 12 noon. Please spread the word or stop by to see all that we have to offer!

Jennifer Forte,
Acting Principal



The Good News
Early Childhood Center News

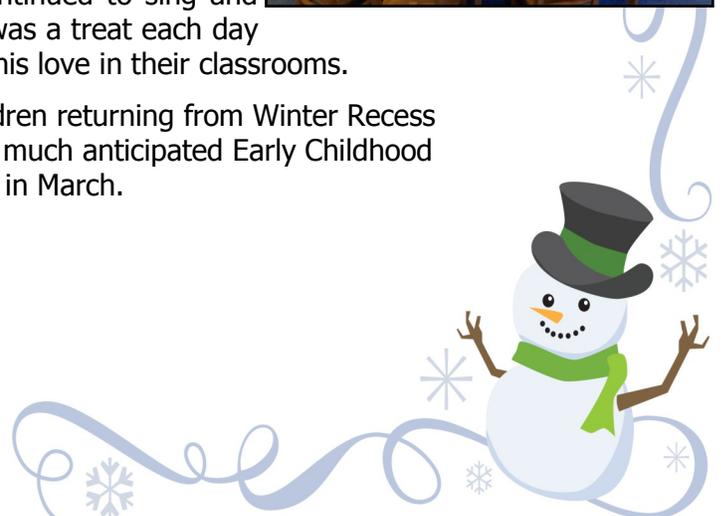
The Early Childhood Center children and staff continue to pray, sing, learn, and have fun! This past month has been rather busy for our teachers and students. Our Pre-K classes enjoyed visits with Kindergarten as they continue to prepare for the next step in their education. The children also visited the Critter Room with Mr. Stainkamp and a music class with Mr. DeVries. Many of the classes even learned about and celebrated Chinese New Year.



During the month of February, as we celebrated Valentine's Day, our ECC children continued to sing and learn about the love of Jesus. It was a treat each day to hear them sing and talk about this love in their classrooms.

We are looking forward to the children returning from Winter Recess as we will begin to prepare for the much anticipated Early Childhood Center Circus which will take place in March.

Carolyn Gallegos,
ECC Director





“To share the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ to all those in suffering and in need.”

We are SO excited to announce that our handlers will be flying to Chicago for training with Trinity's Comfort Dog on April 9 and will be returning with the dog on Friday, April 12. God is good! Please take a little time to read about this important ministry and prayerfully consider how you can help. We are fully self funded and appreciate everyone's support in our fundraising efforts. But mostly, we covet your prayers. Thank you to everyone who has supported us this far in our new ministry!

[K-9 Ministries](#)

Launched in August 2008, the Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry is a national human-care ministry embracing the unique, calming nature and skills of purebred Golden Retrievers. The [LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs](#) and handlers, [LCC Kare 9 Military Ministry Dogs](#) and veteran handlers, and [LCC K-9 Police Ministry Dogs](#) and law enforcement officer handlers are a bridge for compassionate ministry, opening doors for conversation about faith and creating opportunities to share the Mercy, Compassion, Presence and Proclamation of Jesus Christ.



[In The News](#)

The ministries of Lutheran Church Charities are followed by local, national and international media, specifically in the areas of LCC K-9 Ministries, Disaster Response and Crisis Response. To read more about how LCC shares the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ to the communities we serve, follow us In The News.

[Crisis Response](#)

When invited, Lutheran Church Charities responds to crisis situations within 24 hours of the time it is safe to do so.

Following tragic events, immediate response by [LCC K-9 Ministries](#) brings comfort to individuals and families directly impacted, first responders, and volunteers – always in the name of Jesus Christ.





ICON, by artist Richard Caemmerer, is located on the wall of the second floor stairwell landing of our school. It is the first artwork obtained by Stan Kramer for his collection of original Christian artwork for Trinity Lutheran Church and School. ICON is an abstract oil painting with a visual idea similar to Byzantine mosaics and depicts Christ's glory together with His physical presence. This painting was given in loving memory by family, friends and students of Elise Zwergel, who taught at Trinity from 1963 until her death in 1976. ICON reveals the focal point of all Christian education -- Jesus Christ the Lord and loving Savior!

Artist's Description

"ICON portrays the majesty and mystery of Christ. A prevalence of regal gold accented with dashes of red and blue proclaim His kingship. The illusive quality created by the juxtaposition of the mosaic-like squares with the features of Jesus reveal a vision of the mystical, yet real, presence of Christ with us and in us."

About the Artist

Renowned American Lutheran artist and teacher Richard R. Caemmerer Jr. (1933-2016) was a abstract-expressionist painter and maker of stained glass, sculptures, frescoes and tapestry designs for churches. Caemmerer was a liturgical consultant and designer for more than 600 churches throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe, Africa and Japan. He taught art and theology at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago for 19 years and was professor of art at Valparaiso (Indiana) University from 1958-1980. With his wife Elizabeth, he co-founded the retreat center and studio Grunewald Guild in 1980.

by Ellen Kerwin

Our Lenten Journey 2019

Wednesdays in Lent – Soup and Salad Supper at 6:30 pm (Beginning March 13)
Midweek Worship at 7:15 pm
Palm Sunday at 5:00 pm on Saturday and 9:00 and 10:45 am on Sunday
Maundy Thursday at 7:15 pm
Good Friday Family Worship at 12:00 pm and Tenebrae Worship at 7:15 pm
Saturday Easter Vigil at 5:00 pm
Easter Sunday at 7:00, 9:00, and 11:00 am

Midweek Worship Journey through Lent

Ash Wednesday: "A God Who Hungers" (Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21)
Midweek of Lent 1: "A God Who Prays" (John 17:1-26)
Midweek of Lent 2: "A God Beaten" (John 18:19–24)
Midweek of Lent 3: "A God Exposed" (John 19:1–5, 23–24)
Midweek of Lent 4: "A God with a Mother" (John 2:1–5; 19:25–27)
Midweek of Lent 5: "A God Who Thirsts" (John 19:28–30)

Please join us!



*For God so loved
the world that he
gave his one and
only Son....*

JOHN 3:16, NIV



MATTHEW 7:7

A One Day Retreat for Ladies

Saturday, April 6, 2019

9:00AM – 2:00PM in the Multipurpose Room

**Speaker: Rev. Michael Staneck,
Trinity Lutheran Church, Islip
Music Provided by Ann Belfour
and Linda Hoerberlein**

**Sponsored by the Wednesday
Morning Ladies Bible Study Group**

Refresh your soul with an invigorating time of singing, devotions, Bible study, crafts, games, prayer time and fellowship with other ladies of faith! A continental breakfast with hot beverages will be served in the morning. Please bring your own sandwich for lunch. Salads, hot beverages and dessert will be provided.

**A donation of \$10.00 in advance is requested
Please return the registration form and donation
no later than Wednesday, April 3.**

For more information, call Peg Ruhs at 516-822-4867

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ **Amount Enc.** _____
Home Church _____

Please make checks payable to Trinity Lutheran Church

Family



Saturday, March 23, 2019

7:00 – 10:00pm

A Family Fun Night of Board Games!



**\$5.00/person or \$20.00/
family**

***Monies collected goes to Trinity's
Senior Youth for attending the
LCMS National Youth Gathering this summer!***