



TRINITY TIDINGS

March 2025

Believing in Christ, we are called to grow and sent to serve.

Thinking Out Loud With Pastor Josh

Ash Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. March 5

Lent Midweek Prayer every Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

We need energy. We need courage. We require sustenance, rest, and nourishment. We need community.

The work of remaining faithful to Christ can demand an incredible amount from us. Holding fast to Christ's promise of life when we are surrounded by reminders of our brokenness is difficult. Actually, it's impossible to do on our own. We cannot convince ourselves of God's mercy and forgiveness. We need to hear it. Read it. Speak it and have it spoken over us.

We need nourishment. Prayer is nourishment.

Throughout the season of Lent, we are going to focus in different prayer practices. I know, prayer is one of those basic, entry level acts that everyone is called to do. Talk with God, listen to God, make space for God.

At the same time, prayer comes in many forms, and its possible one of the ways we'll learn to pray is new for you. Also, not everyone prays. Prayer is a skill, and one that requires a bit of practice. Not in any way to perfect, but to maintain. God doesn't have any requirements for form, language, or style. Literally everyone can pray. It is we who talk ourselves out of it, or forget to do it, or convince ourselves God is not listening, or give up completely.

All very normal. Yet, prayer is communicating with God. Sometimes pouring out our deepest thoughts, other times listening intently. Occasionally yelling at the top of our lungs, once in a while pacing the floors.

As we walk with Christ through Lent, we'll consider different ways to communicate with God, with the hope of finding, or rediscovering, a pattern that works for you. One that strengthens and nourishes you. Because prayer is a way to sustain our faith and be moved by Christ to see ourselves, our family, and our world through the cross. In the cross we find hope, and we remember again the promise of life.

Trust in God's Grace.
Pr Josh Ehrler

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The Month of March

Worship At Trinity

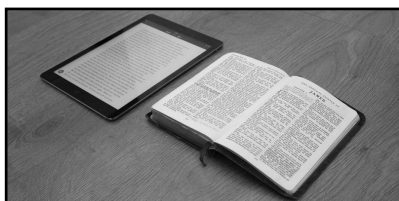
Theme for Lent: Nourishing the Soil

Lent arrives March 5 with Ash Wednesday worship at 7:00 p.m. On this night, we make the sign of the cross as a sign of our humanity and Christ's promise of eternal life. During our Lenten season, we'll continue this reflection as we consider different ways to pray to God. We'll use images, sounds, and move around the space, engaging all of our senses and abilities to speak to God and listen for divine wisdom. Every Wednesday night we'll have a free soup supper at 5:30 p.m., followed shortly by Midweek Prayer at 6:00 p.m.



Trinity Reads the Bible

Jonah



This month we read a short book made famous by a big fish, though its actually about the lengths we'll go to ignore God. Jonah, considered a prophet, refuses to do what God needs of

him, and his stubbornness impacts a lot of others (the cost of sin, if you will). Eventually he relents and gives the shortest sermon in the Bible. The results are more than he expected, or even wanted.

Pastor's Bible Study Sunday, March 16, 10:45 a.m.

Racial Justice Team at Trinity

Pastor Josh is seeking individuals who are interested in studying and doing the work of racial justice in our church and community. We'll study together, create learning opportunities for the whole church, and consider how we can shape our ministries and impact our community for the betterment of our Black and brown neighbors. This is a group that met years ago; its time to see if there's new energy to do the work.



Curious? Talk with Pastor Josh.

Trinity's Core Values

1. We believe Jesus Christ is our Savior and Lord.
2. We are a faith community striving to create a safe space inclusive and accepting of God's people, regardless of race, gender, orientation, age, or status.
3. We learn as we teach, sharing our faith and being an example of Christ in our community.
4. In partnership with our Lutheran synod, neighboring congregations, and civic organizations, we enrich the quality of life of God's people through our resources, time, and skills.
5. We offer worship experiences centered on God's Word and the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion.
6. We remain open to new opportunities and to experiencing new perspectives.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



News And Learning

Trinity Night—March 5



The Trinity Night team will have the first soup supper of the Lenten Season on Mar.5. Soup will be served from 5:30-6 p.m. We will tie fleece blankets and play games after we eat soup and prior to the Ash Wednesday 7:00 p.m. service.

Lenten Soup Suppers

On Wednesdays March 12—April 9, we will serve soup from 5:30-6 p.m. before the service at 6 p.m. We are looking for 3 soups and 1-2 hosts each evening. You can also sponsor a soup for \$40 and someone else will make it. There is a sign-up sheet on the table inside the south entrance of the Sanctuary or you can call the office 815-734-6354.

Easter Flowers for the Altar

You can order a potted spring plant to enhance our worship space at Easter. We'll decorate the sanctuary and you can pick it up after Easter. The order forms will be available the middle of March. This year, there will be a label attached to each pot with your name and what the plant is.



Thank You!

Thank you so much for the outpouring of love and support following Mom's passing. We are so appreciative of all the time and care you took to take care of our family during Mom's funeral. Thank you to all that contributed and helped with the luncheon - you made a difficult day that much easy. Thank you for all the care you gave to our family. You are a blessing to us.

The family of Barbara Skibinski

NIS WELCA Spring Retreat

On Saturday, April 26, 2025, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., women across the synod will gather at Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center (LOMC) in Oregon. The theme, **Walking the Ancient Path**, will be presented by our speakers from PATHWAYS, a center for Spiritual Renewal, a ministry from Christ Lutheran church in Belvidere.



Life today pulls us in many different directions. Work, family life, social calendars, and the endless news cycle all vie for our attention on a daily basis. We invite you to join us as we explore ways to connect with the ancient paths that have been walked by thousands of pilgrimages before. During our time together we will introduce different practices that will help you to press pause, center yourself in the present, and connect with the divine.

This will be an experiential retreat with a brief history/description of the practice and an opportunity to practice it and table interaction. We will also make a prayer bracelet (The Pearls of Life).

The cost of the day is \$30. Scholarships that cover half of the cost of the retreat are available.

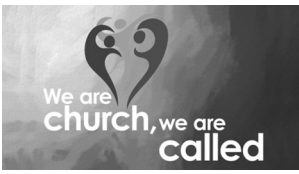
Information and registration forms will be available on the bulletin board outside the church office after March 1.

All women are invited to this event—you do not need to be a WELCA (Women of the ELCA) member to attend!

If you have any questions, please contact Connie Seavey 630-947-7722 or cjseavey50@gmail.com.

PATHWAYS
A CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL





Works of Trinity

REFLECT – PRAY – GIVE

Serving the Vulnerable

Giving locally and serving our neighbors in our community is a powerful motivation. When we know less about people who live even a county away, the temptation is strong to keep the resources close and under our control. We hear this thought within our pews, our village, and from the highest offices in the land. Focus on “our own.”

As strong as this thought is, and can carry notes of genuine compassion, it is also a temptation because it compels us to think of our distant neighbors as “other” or “them,” when scripture reminds us that we are all “we.” Trinity gives generously to the synod, who gives generously to the national Lutheran church, because we are called to serve the vulnerable across the world, no matter their ethnicity, identity, or region of origin. Trinity can’t do all that on our own, so we partner and share our resources with the whole church, such as Global Refuge and Lutheran Social Services. We give thanks for these strong partnerships.

REFLECT on the ways we define the word neighbor in our lives.

PRAY for a widening of our vision of who belongs to God.

GIVE as your able to Trinity’s general offering, or give directly to Global Refuge or LSSI.

Use this QR code for electronic giving to Trinity’s ministry.



TWELCA Baskets of Promise

Often, when natural disasters strike or when war drives families from their homes, our hearts ache with compassion, but we don’t know how to help. Making Lutheran World Relief Kits is a simple, fun and tangible way to offer comfort to those suffering and express love to our neighbors in need.

LWR Kits are specifically designed to help people coping with poverty, disaster, conflict and more. Whether a kit helps someone to maintain good hygiene, care well for a newborn baby, keep education going during a crisis or learn a new vocation, LWR Kits provide dignity and hope in the direst situations.

During Lent, we at Trinity have historically collected the items needed for these kits and we are doing this again. Please take a shopping list from the sanctuary tables or download at trinitymmil.net. **Bins will be placed at either church entrance to collect items. TWELCA will set a date later** this spring to pack your items, as directed by LWR.

We are helping deliver tangible hope to our neighbors in need. The following items are placed in each personal care kit:

- One lightweight bath size towel (dark color recommended)
- 2 bath size bars of soap in original wrapping
- 1 adult size toothbrush in original packaging (if multi-pack is purchased, place single toothbrush in a business size envelope (no plastic bags or wrap)
- 1 sturdy comb (remove packaging)
- 1 metal nail clippers (remove packaging)



Works of Trinity

Ministry in Focus:

Global Refuge



In the month of March, as we reflect on Christ in our homes, we are also remembering God’s people who do not have safe housing or shelter. Global Refuge is committed to support and settlement of immigrants across the globe. Your coins and designated gifts support the vital work of helping individuals and families navigate the logistics of needing to leave one nation to live safely in another.

Scan this QR code for more information on their mission.



Use this QR code for electronic Giving to Trinity’s ministry.

Thank you for your generosity.

February Council Highlights

- The property committee reported that the pump making the noise on the boiler has been replaced.
- The council discussed the possibility of hiring a local HVAC person to oversee monthly maintenance of the boiler and air conditioning.
- The upcoming Congregational Resourcing Event was discussed.
- The council started the discussion of covering the Sexton's responsibilities when Floyd retires on June 1, 2025.
- The property committee reported that one of the bulbs in the sanctuary projectors failed on Sunday. New bulbs have been ordered.

Thrivent Choice Dollars® Can Help Trinity: Direct by March 31



Thrivent Choice is a charitable grant program that gives eligible Thrivent clients, with membership, the opportunity to choose where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable funds each year. Clients are invited to direct Choice Dollars® among thousands of enrolled nonprofit organizations — including Trinity.

Thrivent Choice Dollars have helped fund a range of Trinity ministries in recent years, including the Family Assistance Fund, the Pajama Project, LSSI Christmas gifts, a Compassion child, SG2W camp, the Cantata, Sunday School, the 175th Anniversary Thank-offering, and a church landscaping project. In 2024, the total received was \$1,765.00. Thanks to everyone who chooses Trinity!

Don't forget: 2024 Choice Dollars must be directed by March 31, 2025. If you need help, contact your representative or call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say “Thrivent Choice.”



SGW2 2024

Financial Report: January 2024

Total Monthly Budget Income	\$ 15,599.60
Total Monthly Budget Expense	\$ 20,361.58
Year-to-date Budget Income	\$ 15,599.60
Year-to-date Budget Expense	\$ 20,361.58
Year-to-date Income Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (4,761.98)

Trinity offers electronic giving free for members who wish to have their contribution debited automatically from a checking or savings account. Forms are available in the office.



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
 308 East Brayton Road
 Mount Morris, IL 61054

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Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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MARCH 2025



Important Dates to Note

- Blood Pressure check—March 2
- Ash Wednesday—March 5
- Trinity Night/Soup Supper—March 5
- Lent Season begins—March 5
- CRE Registration due—March 7
- Adult Forum/Mt. Morris Firehouse—March 9
- Lent Soup Suppers—March 12, 19, 26
- Lenten Services—March 12, 19, 26
- CRE/Congregational Resourcing Event—March 22

Loaves & Fish Food Pantry

409 W. Brayton Rd., Mt. Morris, IL 61054.
 (Lower level of the Church of the Brethren.)

Hours: 1st & 3rd Thur. 3:30 – 6 p.m.
 2nd & 4th Mon. 2 – 4:30 p.m.

Anyone in Mt. Morris or Leaf River experiencing food insecurity is eligible. Do not need a referral or proof of income. If questions, contact 815-613-8776 or www.facebook.com/LFpantryMM.

Lifeline Food Pantry

201 N. 3rd St., Suite 6, Oregon, IL 61061. Contact them at 815-732-7891. (Oregon residents only.)

Hours: Mon. & Wed. closed
 Tue. 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. (food only)
 Thur. 1:00 - 4:30 p.m. (food & clothing)
 Fri. 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. (food & clothing)
 Sat. 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. (clothing only)