

Trinity **SONRISE** News



Trinity Lutheran Church

on the Sunrise Side of Michigan

2021

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR AZZAM

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This letter marks one year since we were given safer at home orders which in essence closed the doors of our church house. Though some members who have deemed themselves at less risk for complications from Covid-19 have masked up and attended worship, the vast majority have been patiently awaiting the much-anticipated Covid vaccine. Conversations after worship that were once, "where are you going for breakfast?" have been replaced by, "I got mine, did you get yours...the first one or the second one." Brighter days are coming, we are told, the infection rate around us is continuing to fall and more and more are being vaccinated. It will not be long when the health department will ease gathering restrictions. In the meantime, we continue to clean the church, make available masks and hand sanitizer, and socially distance ourselves in the pews. It may be a while before we will see hugs and handshakes, but it is time that some of you should be thinking about gathering together with your fellow believers. How about Lent and Easter.

If you are not comfortable coming on Sunday, there were 9 in worship this last Wednesday, room for you and 10 more in the sanctuary. If you have been vaccinated a second time and you are two weeks past your second vaccination, then there is all the more reason to return. The writer of the book of Hebrews says in his tenth chapter, "Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer."

Trinity will continue to provide worship opportunities online via Facebook, along with in-person worship, but I am not sure the writer of the Hebrews had envisioned worship or study by zoom meeting when he wrote this. Though people may be hearing the same message online as those who hear it in person, speaking together, praying together, and singing together present a great opportunity for the Holy Spirit to build up the body of Christ that social media does not. The various parts of the human body are always connected to the head. They are unable to function independently. If Christ is the Head and we are his Body, then we demonstrate our connectedness when we come together for corporate worship. Though times may be less normal than before, Christians still find their common identity in Christ, their common mission in His Word, and their time together in worship, their growth in study, their strength in prayer, and their devotion in service, together.

Midweek Lent worship is at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesdays

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship will be at 3:00 p.m.

There will be 3 worship opportunities on Easter Day, April 4th

Indoor worship at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. and in your car at 9:00 a.m.

Hope to see us all gather again.

God bless us as we consider how we might resume our time together as the body of Christ.

Yours in His Service

Rev. Timothy Azzam

STEWARDSHIP

Jesus Cheers Us On

After writing the great “faith chapter,” the author of Hebrews wrote, *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith...”* (Hebrews 12:1-2). The cloud of witnesses refers to the saints highlighted in the “faith chapter” who have gone before us in our race, which is a metaphor for living the Christian life. With this vision in our minds, are we not inspired!

Even more important than having the “cloud of witnesses” accompanying us on our race to receive an imperishable prize, we have Jesus with us. He is not only with us in our race, He is at the finish line cheering us on. Through faith, we can hear Jesus saying, “Come on, you can do it!” To help us in our races, Jesus blesses us in the following ways:

- He gives us energy: *“For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me”* (Colossian 1:29).
- He gives us courage: *“Fear not, little flock, for it is Your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom”* (Luke 12:32).
- He promises to be with us: *“I am with you always, to the end of the age”* (Matthew 28:20).
- He gives us hope: *“I am sure of this, that He Who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ”* (Philippians 1:6).

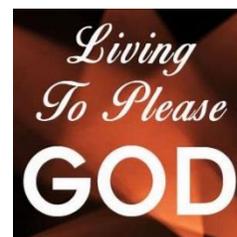
As God’s people, we not only keep our eyes on the finish line, we focus on Christ Who has shown us how to run and Who has run for us. Just as the runner is cheered on by his supporters, we are encouraged by those saints who, by faith, have run the race before us. Just as the runner is stripped to the barest of clothing and lightest of shoes, we rid ourselves of everything that could hinder our race and of every sin that could trip us up. Finally, just like the true runner, we run with joy and exhilaration. *“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 3:14).

As we run our races, we need to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit Who nourishes us for the task through Word and Sacrament. In our races, the Holy Spirit will help us to witness, teach, give, serve, and show compassion to others just as Jesus did during His earthly ministry.

--Bill Davis, Stewardship Chair

**A STEWARD WHO WALKS WITH GOD
IS CONNECTED TO HIM AND PURSUES
A LIFE THAT PLEASURES HIM.**

“... and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments And do what pleases Him” (1 John 3:22).



March Mission of the Month Lutheran Hour – Local Broadcast

Lutheran Hour is an outreach ministry supporting churches worldwide. Locally, The Lutheran Hour airs on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. on WKJC 104.7 FM and WKJZ 94.9 FM.

You can use a mission envelope that can be found in your envelope packet. If you already support a mission, please continue to do so by designating that particular mission by name on a Mission envelope.



In Our Prayers

Joan Abney, Eugene Azzam, Joyce Davis, Chris Exnowski, Wayne Fortney, Elmira Pruitt, Edna Rainey, and Bill Ruckel

Homebound:

Alice Dettmer – Medilodge
Richard Fitzgerald
(Oscoda Senior Condos)

Military:

Jason Cooper
Courtney & Karina Pierce (Army)
Marc Stiller (U.S.A.F. – Sherman)
Nathan Boettge (Marines – Fortney)

Bible Study



Bible Study Opportunities

- Sunday Morning Bible Study at 9:15 a.m. – Jesus’s I Am words. When you call in for worship, please let us know if you plan to attend Bible Study. The room can accommodate 16 people.
- Tuesday Morning Men’s Bible Study online via Zoom – For more information contact Ron Weidenfeller at 724-7701.
- Tuesday Morning Women’s Bible Study meets from 9:15-10:30 a.m. via Zoom – For more information contact Ruth Golm at (989) 724-5679.
- Thursday Morning Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. – In-person in Sunday School wing. Please use the side entrance.



Wednesday Lenten Worship Service – 5:00 p.m.

March 3 – I AM the Truth
March 17 – I AM the Good Shepherd

March 10 – I AM the Life
March 24 – I AM the Door

Holy Week Worship Services

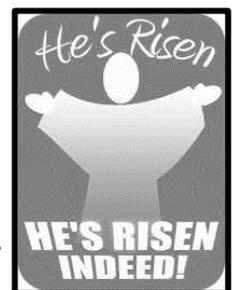
April 1 – 3:00 p.m. – Maundy Thursday – I AM the Bread of Life
April 2 – 3:00 p.m. – Good Friday — Yes, I AM – Luke 22:70
April 4 – Easter Sunday – 3 services – 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. indoors, 9 a.m. outdoors –
I AM the Resurrection

Please note that there will be NO soup suppers



Palm Sunday (March 28th) – Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.
Maundy Thursday (April 1st) – Worship Service at 3:00 p.m.
Good Friday (April 2nd) – Worship Service at 3:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday (April 4th)
– Indoor Worship Services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
– Outdoor Worship Service in the parking lot at 9:00 a.m.

Communion Offered at all Three Easter Services





Notes from the February 11th Church Council Meeting

- The current plan is to hold two worship services from Memorial Day through Labor Day – 8:00 a.m. and at 10:30 a.m. However, if people start returning to in-person worship, it may be necessary to move that date up.
- The Elders are considering different ways to hold communion which would follow Covid-19 restrictions and allow communion to be held up front.
- Sunday morning Bible Study and Lenten worship services will focus on Jesus's I Am words.
- The Memorial Committee is currently reviewing the process. Karen White, Financial Secretary, will be acknowledging all memorial donations and start recording them in the Memorial Book.
- Cleaning of the church was discussed. The Council determined that Martin's Residential and Cleaning should not be used.
- The Treasurer reported that income exceeded expenses by \$8,897.51 for the month of January. The church requested a sales tax exemption from DTE, which was finally received. We were credited with \$991.89 on our DTE bill for sales tax collected during the prior four years. The church remains in good financial standing. The faithfulness of our members is truly a blessing during this difficult time, and we thank all of you for your support!
- Pastor distributed an updated copy of the church directory. He asked the Church Council to call members of the congregation to ask them to prayerfully consider serving on the Council.



Trinity Lutheran Church Women

TLCW Co-Chair Jonalee Engstrom announces that an in-person meeting of TLCW will be held at the church on Thursday, March 11th at 11:00 a.m. She encourages all women to attend – stating, we **need** to see each other and do some chatting and business! See you there!

Trinity Donates Items to Orphan Grain Train



Orphan Grain Train is a 501c3 Nonprofit Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with needy people in America and around the world. Grain Train volunteers gather donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature, and other aid to meet real needs. The Orphan Grain Train movement is a loving response to Jesus Christ's example as a servant and His love for us. Its missions statement: "In loving response to Christ, the Servant, the Orphan Grain Train movement encourages and enables God's people to share personal and material resources in bringing Christ's name and character to needy people both far and near. Sometimes that character expresses itself as a word well spoken, sometimes as a bandage well applied, and sometimes as a child well fed."

Pastor and Kathy recently delivered a carload of items to Orphan Grain Train in Sebawaing, Michigan. The donated items included 24 sets of sheet and pillowcases, a few bedspreads, mattress pads, lots of blankets, and ten quilts that our ladies made. Thank you to Trinity members who assisted in any way to help supply the Orphan Grain Train.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Kristen Krahnke | 3/4 |
| Merlissa Ludeña | 3/8 |
| Sylvester Peca | 3/9 |
| Nancy Kerentoff | 3/10 |
| Alycia Dettmer | 3/11 |
| Margaret Davis | 3/12 |
| Hunter Gerow | 3/12 |
| Joan Peacock | 3/12 |
| Bradley Curley | 3/18 |
| Karen Dettmer | 3/20 |
| Dick Audritsh | 3/23 |
| Karen Abee | 3/26 |
| Janet Krueger | 3/27 |
| Evan Agtergael | 3/28 |
| Kay Ruckle | 3/29 |
| Stacey Curley | 3/30 |
| Evan Dennis | 3/30 |

Happy Anniversary

| | |
|-------------------------|------|
| Timothy & Kathy Azzam | 3/10 |
| Dick & Judy Audritsh | 3/16 |
| Robert & Cynthia Slater | 3/17 |
| Theodore & Karen White | 3/20 |

Know the Elders

The Board of Elders concerns itself with the wellbeing and spiritual life of our congregation and pastor. Pastor Azzam and your Elders are happy and eager to hear from you!

They may be reached at:

Pastor Azzam - 739-4820
 Mitch Davis, Jr. - 989-820-1469
 Roger Tack - 989-293-8050
 Ron Weidenfeller - 724-7701



**Tuesday, March 2nd
 2:00 p.m.**



**Thursday, March 11th
 2:00 p.m.**



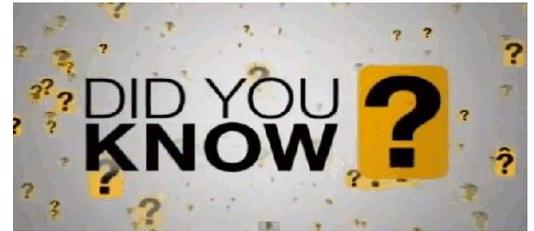
Winter Weather is Here

For worship cancellations, call the church office 739-9292 and check the answering machine!

QUIZ

Holy Week Quiz

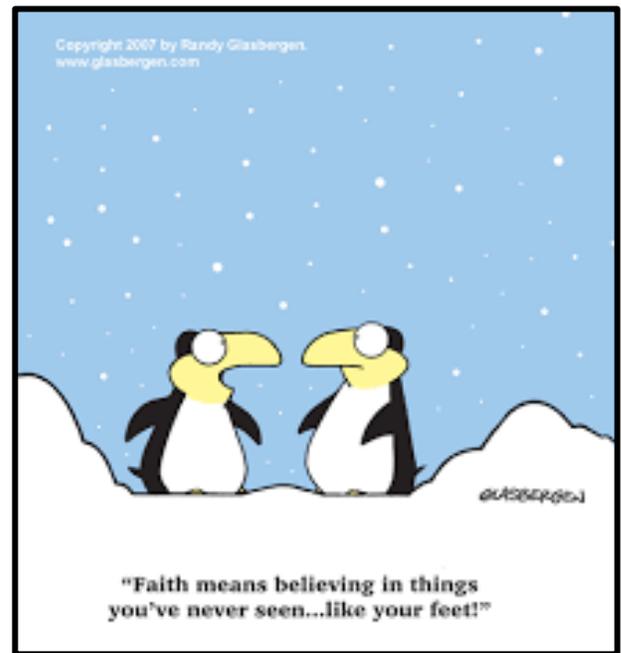
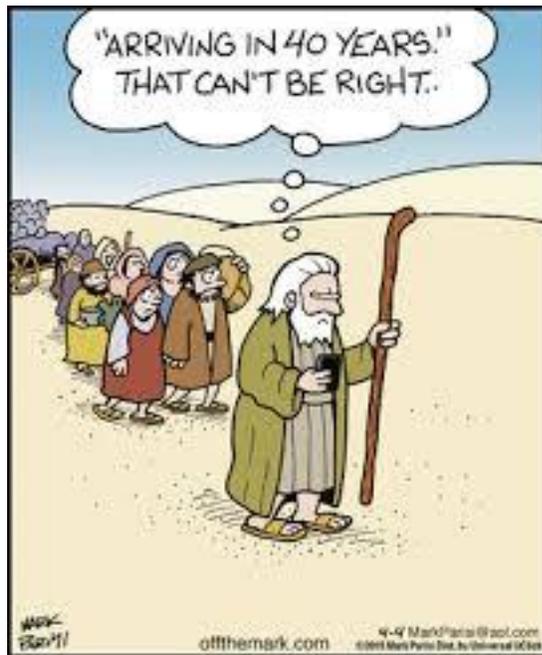
1. Who denied Jesus three times?
2. Who helped Jesus carry the cross?
3. Who made arrangements for the burial of Jesus?



There are at least six people in the world that look just like you. There's a 9% chance you'll meet one of them in your lifetime.

When the Statue of Liberty was unveiled in 1886, it was a shiny brown color, like a penny. By 1906, the color had changed to green.

HUMOR



DEADLINE

The deadline to submit articles for the April Newsletter is March 21, 2020



- Answers to Quiz:
1. Peter
 2. Simon of Cyrene
 3. Joseph of Arimathea