

Trinity Lutheran Church March 2023 Newsletter

Worship Services

9:00 AM, Sundays

5:30 PM, Wednesdays

Holy Communion at all services.



Lent

RETURN TO THE LORD
your God,
FOR HE IS
gracious and
MERCIFUL.

JOEL 2:13



Ash
WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, March 1st, 2023
(this was rescheduled due to the weather)

Worship with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

12:00 PM and 5:30 PM

Soup and sandwiches (served by youth) follows 5:30 service.

Wednesday Lenten Worship Services
with Holy Communion
5:30 pm

March 1, March 8, March 15, March 22, March 29

After the Worship service there will be a soup
& sandwich supper in Trinity Hall.

Free will donation.
Proceeds going towards the youth.



Movie Day

Friday, March 3rd

2:00 PM

Fireside Room

The original film told the true story of the Akita dog named Hachikō who lived in Japan in the 1920s.



Chili Cook off & Silent Auction

Sunday, March 26th @ 11:00



Entry Fee for Chili – \$10

**Try Chili, Bread/Cracker, and
Drink (and 3 tickets) – \$8**

Extra Tickets – \$2 each or 3/\$5

Silent Auction Begins March 12th

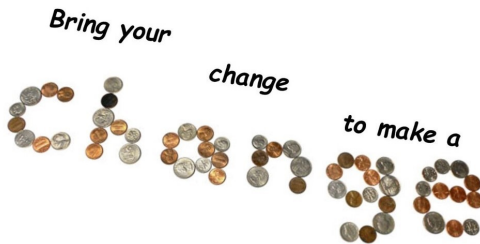
Proceeds go to the Summer 2023 Mission Trip to
Savannah, Ga.

Wednesday soup suppers: We need volunteers to make soup and bars for our meals. Sign-up sheet is on the Opportunity table.

Z-tag: March 24th @ 7pm. For grades 5th - 7th. Parental help would be appreciated.



We are currently accepting scholarship applications for the 2023-2024 school year. There are scholarships available for traditional and non-traditional students. The due date for all applications is March 23, 2023 by Noon. If you have any questions feel free to contact the 2022-2023 Scholarship Committee: Linda Bergland, Chairperson, Rebecca McPherson, Laura Cunningham and Council Member.



The Monday Evening Bible study is starting a new ministry and needs your help. With the concerns of rising food costs, we are starting “Offering to Help Bridge the Gap in Food Costs for our Albert Lea Community.” A bucket will be placed in the back of the church to collect funds to help our neighbors. We will also do a “Noisy Offering” on the 3rd Sunday of the month. The offerings will go to three local ministries: the Salvation Army, United Way Welcome Pantry, and the Ecumenical Food Shelf. Thank you for your support.



Palm Sunday: Sunday, April 2nd

9:00 AM Worship Service with Holy Communion
& Palm Procession

Palm Sunday Brunch: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Maundy Thursday: Thursday, April 6th

5:30 PM Worship Service with Holy Communion

Good Friday: Friday, April 7th

5:30 PM Tenebrae Worship Service

Easter: Sunday, April 9th

Worship Service with Holy Communion

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

Bring fresh-cut flowers to decorate the Easter Cross.

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Easter Sunday sweet rolls, coffee & juice

9:15 AM

Annual Easter Egg Hunt for children and their families begins
in Trinity Hall.

Pastor Eileen

The story of how “Amazing Grace” came to be is a fascinating and surprising account.

“Amazing Grace” is a Christian hymn penned by the English poet and Anglican clergyman John Newton to accompany a sermon he preached on New Year’s Day, 1773. Over the last 250 years, it has become an immensely popular hymn, particularly in the United States where it is used for both religious and secular purposes. The text for the hymn is drawn from 1 Chronicles 17:16-17, in which King David responds to the prophet Nathan’s words that God intends to continue David’s royal line for eternity. The text reads:

Then King David went in and sat before the LORD and said, “Who am I, O LORD God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? And even this was a small thing in your sight, O God; you have also spoken of your servant’s house into the distant future. You regard me as someone of high rank, O LORD God!

Newton wrote the words of “Amazing Grace” from his own personal experience. He was once a man far from faith who was brought near to God by a harrowing event in his life. In 1748, while Newton served as a sea captain of a ship in the Atlantic slave trade, a violent storm off the coast of Ireland struck his vessel so severely that he called out to God for mercy. This moment marked Newton’s turn toward God, what he called “the hour I first believed.” Eventually leaving sailing behind, Newton then began studying Christian theology and was ordained in the Church of England in 1764. He served as a minister in Olney, England, where he began writing hymns.

“Amazing Grace” was published in *Olney Hymns* in 1779 but was rarely sung in England. It was in the United States where the song would become widely known during the early 1800s. While the hymn was associated with more than 20 melodies over the years, in 1835, American composer William Walker set it to the tune known as “New Britain,” and the melody stuck. Today “Amazing Grace” remains one of the most recognizable songs in the English-speaking world. (From www.CreativeCommunications.com)

This Lent we will be focusing on the themes shared in this beautiful hymn – “Amazing Grace.” In Lent, we walk with Jesus to the cross where Jesus frees us from sin and gives us eternal love. This reminds me of the contemporary addition to this hymn: “My chains are gone, I’ve been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me. And like a flood His mercy reigns. Unending love—Amazing grace!”

Amazing Grace Indeed!

Amazing Grace

Week 1 – Sunday, February 26th

Welcome to our Amazing Grace series for Lent. In this service, we will see God's amazing grace at work in the life of the prophet Isaiah, who proclaimed to God's people the salvation that was to come through the Suffering Servant. Our call in Lent is to speak that same message of salvation found in the suffering and death of Jesus, who came not to be served but to serve.

Week 2 – Sunday, March 5th

Welcome to our Amazing Grace series for Lent. In this service, we hear Jesus tell of the great love of a father who lavished amazing grace upon the Prodigal Son, a picture of our Heavenly Father's lavish compassion toward us through his Son Jesus. We were lost but now are found.

Week 3 – Sunday, March 12th

Welcome to our Amazing Grace series for Lent. In this service, we witness Jesus bringing sight to a man born blind, giving the man the added spiritual vision to see the amazing grace of God found in Jesus, who heals us all. We were blind but now we see.

Week 4 – Sunday, March 19th

Welcome to our Amazing Grace series for Lent. In this week's service, we listen to Jesus teach a woman at the well of his amazing grace poured out for us abundantly, which satisfies our thirsting souls for all eternity. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Week 5 – Sunday, March 26th

Welcome to our Amazing Grace series for Lent. In this service, we marvel at the story of amazing grace in the life of Paul, who turned from persecutor of Christ to proclaimer of our Lord through the mighty power of the Holy Spirit. In the same way, the cross of Christ changes us all from enemy to friend.

“Amazing Grace” is one of the most recorded hymns of all time. The Library of Congress has more than 3,000 recordings in its library. Popular versions have been sung by Judy Collins, Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Aretha Franklin, Rod Stewart and Willie Nelson. —*How Sweet the Sound*, p. 11
John Newton biographer Jonathan Aitken estimates that “Amazing Grace” is performed about 10 million times annually. —*How Sweet the Sound*, p. 15

- “Amazing Grace” has been translated into more than 50 languages.
- “Amazing Grace” is commonly sung at funerals, often with bagpipes, because of his final stanzas that offer the message of peace and comfort after death.
- After John Newton’s ship survived the storm, it landed off the coast of Donegal, Ireland. In 2013, Ireland built a viewing platform at Lough Swilly, near Castle Bridge, County Donegal, to mark the spot where Newton began his conversion.
- John Newton would become one of the most outspoken abolitionists in British history.

Announcements

During Lent, our Monday evenings and Thursday mornings Bible Study will be studying the hymn “Amazing Grace.” We will see how God’s amazing grace touched the lives of those who encountered Christ firsthand and who point us to discover his suffering, death and resurrection. Study and discussion questions remind us that our lives, too, have been touched by such amazing grace because God sent his Son to save us.

Women’s Evening Bible Study will be on Tuesday, March 21 at 6:45. We will continue our study of the Ten Commandments from “The Gather” magazine.

We are working with other communities churches to provide a Community VBS this summer. The next planning meeting is Thursday, March 2 at 6:30 at Ascension Lutheran Church. We are tentatively planning on having the Community VBS August 7-10 in the evenings. (This is the week after the Fair)

Premises

We had problems with zone 2 for our hot water heat from the boilers. The thermostat calls for heat and tells the zone control relay to start the zone pump. The zone pump runs until the heat is satisfied and shuts down. Well, our pump shut down like it is supposed to, but hot water continued to run through the pump. Not good, we don't need to be 80+ degrees in the room. We found a faulty check valve on the inlet to the pump which let hot water free flow through the pump. The check valve was replaced, and everything is back to normal. (This probably doesn't make much sense, but I need something to write about this month.)

Work continues on the emergency fire exit lights and lighting. Waiting for some parts to arrive to finish the work.

We had some used fluorescent bulbs (319) and some other burnt-out bulbs. This was all gathered up and hauled to the County hazard waste building for them to dispose of properly.

If you have any problems or concerns contact Steve, Jeff or a council member.

Ruby's PANTRY

*Please follow the signs
and stay in your
vehicle*

Next drive - thru pantry is:
Saturday March 4, 2023
8:45 am - 10:00 am

For a \$25 cash donation, people can receive an abundance of food. There are no income or residency requirements.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ALBERTLEA
702 HWY 69 S, ALBERT LEA, MN, 56007

Volunteers Needed: Call 507-373-8233



Sing with All the Saints in Glory: A Lenten Midweek Series

Week 1: Inheritance of Faith

George Herbert; John Wesley and Charles Wesley

This week's commemorations—George Herbert, an English Anglican country priest and renowned poet, and John and Charles Wesley, Anglican priests, missionaries to America, and eventual founders of the Methodist movement—remind us that we share in this heritage of passing on the good news of Jesus Christ. Our faith has been handed down from ages past. We give thanks for the countless individuals who passed on the faith. As we think about the history of the church, we remember missionaries who traveled to distant lands and across barriers of language and culture to share this faith. We remember scholars, teachers, and theologians who helped us to articulate our faith. We also remember people in our own lives who taught us what it means to follow Jesus.

Readings: Psalm 145:1-13 and 2 Timothy 1:1-14

Week 2: Perseverance with Endurance

Perpetua and Felicity; Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth

Perpetua and Felicity were early Christian martyrs who chose to die rather than forsake their faith in Jesus and their commitment to each other. Harriet Tubman was Moses to her people, leading many enslaved people to freedom during the horror of American slavery. She was deeply religious and believed her work was a direct call from God despite her own personal challenges. As an enslaved woman in New York, Sojourner Truth sued for her freedom, then spent the rest of her life working for abolition and women's suffrage. Throughout history Christians have been called to lives of service and sacrifice. In our own lives of faith, we draw courage from the examples of the saints, and most of all we find strength from God, who is with us always.

Readings: Isaiah 61:1-4 and Hebrews 12:1-2, 12-13

Week 3: Faithful in Prayer

Gregory the Great; Patrick

Gregory the Great was a sixth-century pope who is often remembered as one of the “fathers of Christian worship” because of his work revising the liturgy and making developments in church music. Patrick was a missionary to Ireland. Called by God to carry the good news of Jesus to the Irish, he became one of the founders of the great Celtic tradition of Christianity. Patrick is famous for his defense of the Trinity. We remember that our Christian life is formed and sustained by worship and prayer. We need time to reflect and time to pray. God is far above and beyond our comprehension—we can never fully understand the divine—but we are called to worship God’s immense, unfathomable presence in us and all creation.

Readings: Isaiah 55:6-12 and Ephesians 1:15-23

Week 4: Striving for Justice

Joseph; Oscar Romero

Oscar Romero was martyred while celebrating mass in 1980. Archbishop Romero was an outspoken critic of the government corruption, military abuse, and oppression of the people of his native El Salvador. He was convinced that the heart of the gospel is centered on God’s compassion for the poor and the liberation of all people. In Joseph we see how the holy family became refugees at the hands of a tyrant ruler. In our baptism we pledge to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. We join with all the saints in hearing God’s call and working for justice for all people.

Readings: Isaiah 58:6-9 and Matthew 25:31-40

Week 5: Dying and Rising with Christ

Hans Nielsen Hauge; John Donne

This final week commemorates Hans Nielsen Hauge, a nineteenth-century Norwegian lay preacher, and John Donne, the seventeenth-century English poet and dean of St. Paul’s Cathedral in London. At first glance there is little that connects these two—but at their heart both individuals were fervent in proclaiming the amazing grace of God with as much clarity as possible. This is the core of our Christian faith, that Jesus died to save us from our sins and rose to grant us everlasting life. We have died with Christ in baptism, and because he lives, we shall rise with him.

Readings: Romans 6:3-11 and Revelation 7:9-17

Council President

Some of you have been wondering if there will be an Aebleskiver Breakfast this year. As of now, we are still planning one. The use of the funds has not yet been determined. A couple of property issues will need to be addressed in the near future. The sanctuary roof was re-roofed many years ago, but is starting to show its age. We will have it inspected this spring. The other one is the upper parking lot, which will eventually need to be replaced with a new surface.

It still amazes me how our lives can be thrown into uncertainty and general upheaval by the actions of ourselves and others. It can also be caused by a health diagnosis or loss of a loved one. A lot of the time we end up worrying and cause ourselves a lot of undue stress and anxiety. I have been a “worry about things soul” my whole life. The unfortunate thing is that worrying doesn’t really do any good for yourself or anyone else. The Bible says this in Philippians 4:6-7; “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

I hope you have been attending the Wednesday evening Lenten services. It doesn’t seem like we are already this close to Easter Sunday on April 9th.

s/Ron Petersen

Trinity’s Mission Statement

We are a fellowship of believers in Christ, sustained by God’s Word, led by the Holy Spirit and committed to God’s vision of caring!

Finance

March is here. Hopefully, our higher energy bills will start to decrease. Last month the bill for heat and lights was \$3,409.23, over \$100 dollars per day. I would hate to see what they would have been if we were still using our old boiler system from years past. We are also working on how to reduce usage.

I would like to remind all Thrivent Financial members to direct your **THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS** by the March 31st deadline. Thank you to all who have donated through Thrivent.

I am looking forward to the upcoming Lenten season, as I am writing this before it starts. We have a large group of youth to help during the soup & sandwich meals after worship. While most are church members, we also have a few youth that have chosen to attend with their friends who attend Pre-Confirmation and Confirmation classes. Consider setting up for online giving either on our website at www.tlc-al.org or at <http://myeoffering.com/>.

January financial overview:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Total Receipts | \$19,907.14 |
| Total Disbursements | \$29,643.56 |
| (Shortfall) | (\$9,736.42) |

YTD financial overview:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Total Receipts | \$19,907.14 |
| Total Disbursements | \$29,643.56 |
| (Shortfall) | (\$9,736.42) |

s/ Chris Skogheim



Trinity Lutheran Church Women

Co-Presidents: LeAnn Juveland & Linda Olson

The Lord miraculously puts everything into his perspective when my mind and my heart are set on all that he is, on all that he has done, on all that he has promised. I become more hopeful and most importantly I am humbled. His love is never-ending. Look, listen and hear. He will bring you perfect peace.

-Kathy Troccoli From God Always Has a Plan B

Daylight Savings Time is starting March 12th and Spring comes March 20th and we are already into Lent. Hope all is good with everyone. Your TLCW Board was looking at the date of our Salad Luncheon and realized it is the Wednesday of Holy Week. A busy time so we are going to combine the Salad Luncheon with Heritage Day which is June 7th, Maybe by June we will be blessed with warm weather. Hope this will not be an inconvenience for anyone.

March Calendar of Events

TLCW Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 7th at 9:30 am

Bible Study Leaders

Tuesday, March 7th at 1:00 pm

Sewing Day

Wednesday, March 8th – all are welcome!

Mary Circle

Tuesday, March 14th at 1:30 pm

Deborah & Elizabeth Circles

Wednesday, February 15th at 9:30 am

Deborah Circle will meet in Jacobsen Fellowship Hall

Elizabeth Circle will meet in Fireside Room

Eunice & Lois Circles

Wednesday, March 15th at 2:00 pm

Save the Date:

The BERC Spring Conference is April 29th at First Lutheran Church Albert Lea. There will be more information to follow.

TLCW Coffee Hour Schedule

Mary..... March 5th

Deborah..... March 12th

Elizabeth..... March 19th

Eunice..... March 26th

Memorials Given in Loving Memory of...

Wednesday Night Supper

Steven Thorson (son of Wayne Thorson)

By Leverne and Liz Skov

Duane Schroeder

By Leverne and Liz Skov

Barry Oliva

By Leverne and Liz Skov

By Marlene Wright

Gary Retzloff (Kim Nelson's dad)

By Leverne and Liz Skov

Undesignated

Barry Oliva

By Allan and Nancy Halvorsen

Gary Retzloff (Kim Nelson's dad)

By Bob and Pat Goldman

Mission Trip

Barry Oliva

By Mark and Sheila Jensen

By Marlin and Sharon Herfendal

Gary Retzloff (Kim Nelson's dad)

By Jeff and Kim Nelson

Music

Gary Retzloff (Kim Nelson's dad)

By Shorty and Nancy Jensen

Parking Lot

Gary Retzloff (Kim Nelson's dad)

By Dick and Phyllis Tavis

Sympathy to the family of Barry Oliva, husband of Donna. The memorial service for Barry will be held on Saturday, April 22, 2023 at 11:00 AM with visitation one hour prior to the service at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Sympathy to the family of Nadine Moller.

Trinity Lutheran Church

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