

(DON'T) FAST FORWARD

THE MESSENGER
February 2024



When you're watching a movie you've seen before and one of the hard parts come on the screen (the protagonist dies, the villain does something villainy, etc.), do you watch it? Or do you look away or even fast forward through the difficult scene and get to something a little more enjoyable?

I've learned that the difficult scenes actually help me appreciate what happens next. The challenging-to-watch parts actually help me appreciate the growth of the character or the end result more because I endured the challenging scene. For example, I appreciate Simba's courageous stand at the end of "The Lion King" because of the difficult scene earlier in the movie (no spoilers given here!). And I cheer for the heroes in the "Harry Potter," "Marvel," and "Star Wars" franchises more because of the challenges they endured.

In a few weeks we begin the Christian season of Lent, when we are invited into the story of Jesus' sacrificial death. Like watching a challenging scene in a movie, it can be very tempting to look away. Jesus' suffering and dying is very uncomfortable. However, when we take time to gaze at the cross and all that it means for us as followers of Jesus, the empty tomb on Easter morning has much greater meaning.

This year during our midweek worship services throughout Lent, we will be examining chapters 14 and 15 of the Gospel of Mark, which detail Jesus' Passion (the final period of Jesus' earthly life as a human.) In addition, a team of Trinity Lutheran staff have written devotions based on those two chapters in Mark. You will be receiving those devotion books as we get closer to Lent.

Throughout Lent, I encourage you to allow yourself to fully engage in the Passion of our Savior. You may be tempted to look away or fast forward to the empty tomb. I encourage you to look deeply at the incredible act of love on the cross. Yes, it will be difficult. But, oh, the joy we will have when we celebrate the empty tomb together!

One last thing- you may have noticed that Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls on February 14 this year. What a perfect day to begin our journey of remembering the greatest act of love in the history of the world! (John 3:16)

I look forward to traveling this journey with you.

In Christ's hope,

Pastor David



SENIOR PASTOR CALL COMMITTEE

Congratulations to the following who have been approved by the Board of Lay Ministry as Senior Pastor Call Committee members: Kathy Alwes-Petri, Pat Backsmeier, Lorraine Gosnell, Scott Heape, Wes Matejka, Dave Wilcox, Jarrod Windhorn, and Nancy Fuemmeler (chair). Pastor Bahn, Shawn Hoffmann, and Scott Lage are non-voting advisory members. Pastor Michael Mohr, CID President is also pictured at left. Please keep Committee members in your prayers as they begin their important work for Trinity.

CONGREGATIONAL FINANCE MEETING - Monday, February 26, 7PM

Congregation President, Scott Lage, invites you to attend a special informational meeting where Director of Finance, Scott Hoeft, and other church leaders will be available for an overview of the current state of Trinity Lutheran's finances as well as a look into the next year's budget.

The congregation is invited to **SHARE DISCUSSION** and **PROVIDE INPUT**. We encourage you to attend this special meeting taking place in Room 140!

LENT & EASTER SCHEDULE

ASH WEDNESDAY, February 14, 4:00 and 6:00PM - the 6PM service will be livestreamed. We will continue worship on Wednesdays throughout Lent at 4 & 6PM.

PALM SUNDAY, March 24, at 8:15 and 10:30AM - livestreaming will happen at both services.

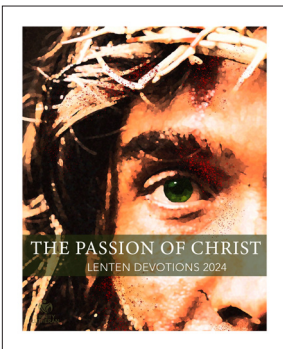
MAUNDY THURSDAY, March 28, worship with Communion, 7:00PM - this service will be livestreamed.

GOOD FRIDAY, March 29, worship, NOON and 7:00PM - The 7PM Tenebrae service will be livestreamed.

EASTER SUNDAY, March 31, worship, 6:00AM Sunrise, 8:00AM Traditional with Communion, and 10:00AM Contemporary with Communion - The 8 & 10:00 services will be livestreamed.

EASTER BREAKFAST - The Youth will again be hosting an Easter Breakfast, which will take place in the church gym from 7:00-9:45AM Easter morning.

LENTEN MEALS - Lenten meals of soups, salad, bread, and desserts will be served Wednesdays between worship services beginning on Ash Wednesday February 22, from 4:30-6PM in the church gym.



LENTEN DEVOTIONALS - THE PASSION OF CHRIST

Lent is the 40 days—not including Sundays!—from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday before Easter. Christians consider Lent a time to reflect on what Jesus did for us. Lent is a time to get our hearts ready to truly appreciate Jesus' death for us and celebrate Easter. One way to prepare hearts is to be in the transforming Word of God.

This year our Wednesday Lent sermon series will be focused on the Passion account of Christ recorded in Mark 14-15. The staff of both Trinity Lutheran Church and School have written daily devotions based on those two chapters in scripture. Our prayer is that your faith is strengthened as you spend time in reflection of Jesus' life,

death and resurrection. Booklets will be available beginning Sunday, February 11th.

FUNERAL LUNCHEON VOLUNTEERS

Are you looking for a service opportunity? Are you willing to provide food, set up, serve food, clean up OR coordinate lunches? If so, please consider joining our team of funeral lunch volunteers. At the meeting, we will catch up with fellow volunteers, review our 2024 schedule and discuss suggestions for improvements. Snacks will be provided!

For more information about funeral lunches, join us on February 12th at 1PM in Room 140 or contact Karen Starckovich at (309) 830-6679.



GAME DAY

sponsored by Trinity Women's Ministry

A Game Day will be held on Tuesday afternoon, February 6 from 1:00-3:00PM. We will be playing a new game that was developed just for this day. "Gotta Have Heart". It's not a card game and not a board game but a TEAM game about heart and love.

Challenge your mind and get your blood pumping with some good old-fashioned fun trying to find out where and what we can learn using Bible verses, Bible facts, some old familiar songs and some "maybe" new jokes.

We will also be playing Bingo with "hearts"!

There will be lots of prizes and snacks, and plenty of time to meet old friends and make some new friends.

This event, sponsored by the Women's Ministry team, is open to all. No babysitting will be provided.



LENTEN MEALS

Now is your chance to use your culinary and baking skills in contributing to this Lenten season's SOUP & SALAD MEALS.

If you and some friends are interested in making a favorite soup recipe for a large group, we have FIVE open dates to choose from.

If you are interested in making a homemade dessert (cake, pie, cookies, brownies, etc.) we have SIX dates available to choose from.

For details about the soup, please contact Amy Cottone at amycottone@trinluth.org or text (309) 261-6563. For details about desserts, please contact Carol Brown at (309) 824-7039.



DORCAS CIRCLE COLLECTION FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

A Season of Hope - Lent

We're spreading God's Love during LENT (February 14-March 24) by collecting items for Lutheran World Relief Kits for people in the poorest areas of the world. Our collection box is located in church's lower level hallway outside the elevator. Donate one or as many items as you wish from the list below.

If you would like to assist us with shipping the Kits, there are "Ship A Box" envelopes available as well. Thank you for your prayers for these important projects.

ALL ITEMS MUST BE NEW

Goal

- 60 - Spools of Thread
Neutral colors, cotton or cotton blend
- 300 - Bath Soap – Large, Dove, Ivory, or antibacterial
- 100 - Toothbrush – Adult size
- 100 - Comb – Sturdy, NO picks
- 100 - Nail Clipper
- 500 - Pencils - Unsharpened #2

Goal

- 500 - Ink Pens – Black or Blue, NO gel ink
- 100 - Crayons – Box of 16-24
- 100 - Eraser – 2 ½" long
- 100 - Pencil Sharpener
- 100 - Scissors – Blunt end
- 100 - Ruler 12" – With both centimeters & inches

Thank you for your continued support of Lutheran World Relief!



Developing
well-rounded, lifetime
Christian disciples.

Mr. Shawn Hoffmann, Principal | 1102 W Hamilton Rd | Bloomington, IL 61704
(309) 829-5713 | trinluthschool.org

THIS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Friday, January 26th marked the end of our week-long National Lutheran Schools Week celebration. Even though it turned out to be a short week, it was still filled with activities that celebrated the values of THIS LUTHERAN SCHOOL. Namely, activities that brought students closer together, activities that focused on serving those outside of ourselves, and activities that were just plain fun and brought joy. The key is that each activity was built upon God loving us first and then sharing that love with others.

As we prepared for this celebration, I asked our Enrollment Coordinator, Christina Hansen, to collect data on what some of our new families thought about this Lutheran School. Christina has collected feedback and input over the last two years from new families and visitors. I'd like to share her input with you as we bring this 2024 National Lutheran Schools Week to a close.

I asked Christina, 'Why do families choose TLS?'. Here is the information she shared—verbatim.

Being Known

"Families love that in our approach to well-roundedness, we look at each student as a unique child of God, get to know them as people, and give attention to their individual strengths and weaknesses. They love that we have Chapel Buddies, Lunch Buddies, and Family Groups so that their children get to make connections throughout the entire school with both fellow students of different grade levels and staff. That everyone-knows-everyone and a Big Family feel really resonates.

Church Support

Many prospective families not only appreciate the fact that the church supports us financially, but also that so many church members take the time to volunteer, connect with, and encourage students. When touring families see reading volunteers, lunch ticket takers, and other volunteers, it makes them very happy, and many then ask if they can be involved after enrolling, too.

Family Involvement and Support

Families love seeing that we not only embrace the children whom they enroll here, but the entire family. They are excited to join a school community that's a giant extended family, as well as to learn that they can volunteer and they are welcomed to be involved in both their child(ren)'s educations and the school as a whole.

Peace, Joy and Warm Welcomes

Hardly anyone asks about test scores anymore (even though ours rock), but almost everyone comments on how amazed they are at how peaceful our school feels, how happy everyone is to be here, the warm welcomes they receive from staff and students alike, and our kiddos' willingness to include visiting children and share the things they love most about school.

Staff Dedication and Longevity

When families walk around the school and interact with teachers, administrators and support staff, the uncommonly high level of dedication we have for our school and families is very apparent. People are beyond delighted to learn that we very rarely lose staff members to anything other than retirement... and that once retired, many of those former staff return as volunteers. It speaks volumes.

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- JR High youth will have the opportunity to serve those in our community on Monday, February 26th at Midwest Food Bank. If you would like to help, please sign up on the following link:

We will meet at Midwest Food Bank from 6-8:00PM. Parents, we do need a few of you to stay and help us that night so feel free to register as well.

- JR Discipleship CONNECT Night this month will be on Wednesday, February 7th from 7-8:30PM at TLS.

- Our 8th graders will be sharing their statement of faith during this Lenten season, both on our Wednesday night services, as well as a few of our Sunday morning services.

- Youth Nights this month will be February 7, 14, 21 & 28th. Join us for fun, fellowship, food, devotion, and prayer.

- SR High basketball ministry will have one last set of home games on Sunday, February 11th at TLS. Games will be played at 1, 2:10 and 3:20PM. Come cheer us on!

- SR High Lock-out event is coming March 1-2nd. Be watching for a sign-up link!

UKANDU Chicago 2024 is open for registration. This week of serving will be June 23-29 and we will join five other churches. If you are interested or want more information, you must reach out to Christy ASAP. Registration is only open until February 15th or until we reach 150 participants.

Pictured below - Basketball Ministry Senior Recognition, SR High Movie Night, and JR High Ice Skating at Bloomington Ice Center



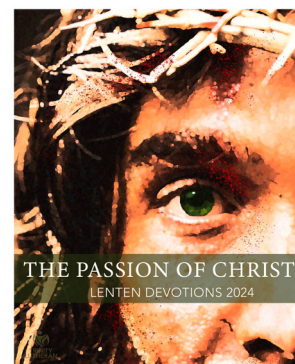
Mary Bloebaum, DCE | Director of Family Life Ministry | mtb1@trinkluth.org

Sara Hlava | Lay Director of Family Life Ministry

DEVOTIONS THROUGH LENT WITH YOUR FAMILY

Lent is the 40 days—not including Sundays!—from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday before Easter. Christians consider Lent a time to reflect on what Jesus did for us. Lent is a time to get our hearts ready to truly appreciate Jesus' death for us and celebrate Easter. One way to prepare hearts is to be in the transforming Word of God.

This year our Wednesday Lent sermon series will be focused on the Passion account of Christ recorded in Mark 14-15. The staff of both Trinity Lutheran Church and School have written daily devotions based on those two chapters in scripture. With reflection questions, prayer, and "Kid Connections," these devotionals lend themselves to sharing with family, friends or just pondering them on your own. Our prayer is that your faith is strengthened as you spend time in reflection of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Booklets will be available beginning Sunday, February 11th.



EASTER EGG HUNT

Let the BIG HUNT begin!!! Mark your calendars for this FAMILY FAITH EVENT on Saturday, March 30 at 10AM at Trinity Lutheran School (1102 W. Hamilton). Registration will open soon. We will also be accepting candy donations outside of the church office.



FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE

Trinity's Family Life and PTL will be hosting a free Father-Daughter Dance that will be held on Saturday, February 24 from 2-4PM at Trinity Lutheran School. This will be a special event for fathers and father figures to make an awesome memory with daughters of all ages.

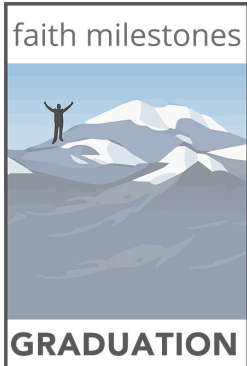
We will offer snacks, sweet treats, a photo booth, and lots of opportunities to get your groove on!! The attire for the night can be as relaxed or formal as you'd like. <https://www.trinkluth.org/events>

PARENT OASIS

For those who drop off children at Trinity Kids on Sunday morning we offer a drop in space for parents to connect with others over coffee, donuts, and an encouraging word from the Lord. Join us in Room 115 (across from the preschool room).



FAITH MILESTONES COMING UP NEXT



HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR GRADUATION MILESTONE:

Calling all seniors and parents of seniors in High School...we have a gift for you as you prepare for life after high school. Join us for 4 Wednesday nights beginning **FEBRUARY 7, 2024** from 7-8:15PM. We have several leaders who will discuss friendships, relationships, spiritual life, academics and finances. Parents, we will also prepare you for the blessing that will take place at the end of the school year! <https://www.trinluth.org/graduation-milestone>

PRESCHOOL FAITH MILESTONE: (3's & 4's with Parents)

We are excited to invite families with 3 or 4 year olds (2023-24 school year) to our **PRESCHOOL MILESTONE** where kids will receive the **PRESCHOOL BIBLE** and parents receive the first book in the Concordia Publishing House's first book of the sex education series for ages 3-5 year olds. These two parent sessions will take place on **FEBRUARY 4 & 11, 2024** during our discipleship time from 9:30-10:15AM. A blessing with parent and preschooler together will take place during the February 11th class time. <https://www.trinluth.org/preschool-milestone>



SAVE THE DATE: FAMILY-STYLE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Save the date for Trinity's Family-Style Vacation Bible School: Sunday, June 2-Tuesday, June 4, 2024! We are going to venture **DEEP** into the amazing love of God through **SCUBA**!



SCENES FROM TRINITY KIDS SUNDAY MORNING





DECEMBER 2023

*Operating Fund Carryover is the Operating Fund Balance at the end of the 2018 Fiscal year.

** On March 12, 2019 the Board of Lay Ministry approved up to \$30,000 to be transferred as needed from our dedicated funds to the operating fund.

	December	Since 7/1/23	% of Budget
Offerings	\$188,982.37	\$779,832.62	96.05%
Total receipts	\$287,162.33	\$1,706,794.69	91.08%
Total expenses	\$262,299.58	\$1,648,885.41	88.03%
Operating Fund Carryover	\$78,315.00		
Operating Fund Draw*	\$0.00		
Net Income	\$24,862.75	\$57,909.28	
Operating Fund Balance	\$136,224.28		
BLM Emergency Funding Amount Approved**	\$30,000		

	Total	Average per Week	% Change
Current Year's Offering	\$779,832.62	\$28,882.69	
Last Year's Offering	\$798,815.15	\$30,723.66	-5.99%
Difference	-\$18,982.53	-\$1,840.97	

If you have questions about our church financials, please contact Scott Hoeft, 309-834-3205.

OFFICIAL ACTS & MEMBERSHIP CHANGES AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2023

Members Received by Baptism

Brenden Webb (adult) – December 6

Members Received by Transfer

Benton and Becky Duncan, and confirmed children, Miriam, Jeremy, and Peter Duncan, from Immanuel Lutheran, Fargo, ND

Members Removed by Transfer

Garrett Merkle to Trinity Lutheran, Edwardsville, IL

William Cullen to Christ Church Lutheran, Phoenix, AZ

Kristyn Plassmeyer and baptized daughter, Madeline, to Hales Corners Lutheran, Hales Corners, WI

Steve and Julie Slayton and baptized daughter, Shelby, to Bethany Lutheran, Fishersville, VA

Members Removed by Release

Kathryn Adams and confirmed children, Alexandria and Molly

Deaths

Melba Alsman – December 17

LWML

Nora Zaring, Director of our local Threshold to Hope, will be the speaker for our February 8th LWML meeting. It's a chance for us to learn more about how this group offers healing and hope through art. They are in need of styrofoam egg cartons and pizza boxes for some of their current projects.

The meeting will be in Room 140 at 1 PM. Gay Lea Hafermann and Becky Kleinschmidt will be the hostesses. Plan to join us and bring a friend!





February 1

Angela Hanslow
Ethan Ryan
Becky Trimble
Daniel Willey

February 2

August Butorac
Norma Burger
Dean Engelbrecht
Emily Freitag
Edgar Van Hook

February 3

Terri Daugherty
Matthew Davis
Paul Dietsch
Cheryl Durbin
Dianne Smith

February 4

Annika Brown
Brooke Frazier
Brent Hanslow
Colin Kidwell
Michael Limer
Archer Kwasny

February 5

Teagan Aper
Liam Evans
Christopher Lagacy
Amelia Maas
Patricia K. Paul
Ashley Reichert
Tyler Scroggins
Jessica Szarek
Elsie Baumann

February 6

Ava Frazier
Wendy Keller
Kim Olson
Robert Ralston
Steve Trower
Zach Walker

February 7

Tricia Carter
Lauren Heape
George Nordine

February 8

Karen Bell
Carol Krueger
Samantha Renken
Chris Trimble

February 9

Debbie Wietfeldt
Courtney Christian, Jr.

Jennifer Grant
Mackenzie Matejka
Steven Schreiber

February 10

Hannah Emerson
Joseph Szarek
Tori Wiley

February 11

Andrea Lagacy
Austin Walker
John Marshall

February 12

Caleb Maas
Mark Otto
Gene Williams
Laura Kosinski

February 13

Maia Baird
Patti Houchin

February 14

David Burke
Caylie Carter
Dave Wilcox

February 15

Susan Gerike
Lisa Kiefer
Scott Peterson

Serenity Starr
Mia Drake

February 16

Adam Brownfield

February 17

Sandra Greenwald

February 18

Joshua Meade
Terry Shea
Bryant Snyder

February 19

Jackson Smith

February 20

Patricia Quinn
Christopher Tracy
Rebekah Willey

February 21

Nathan Ary
Ronald Durdle
Gavin Leverett
Evelynn Newell
Gage Peterson

February 22

Chad Hoffer
David Zastrow

February 23

Diane Giermann
Sara Stanek

February 24

Skyler Bagby
Abigail Hoeft
Michael Meismer
Alexis Ropp
Edna Thompson

February 25

Jack Clark
Russell Bonds
Susan Rutherford
Leah Hasselbring

February 26

Ashley Brownfield
Kim Filter
Carol Springer

February 27

Mike Ogden
Rachel Renfrow
Janet Ries
Paul Vellella
Terri Zeschke

February 28

Roger Payne



February 1

Mary Bartimus
Shirley Elble
Timothy (Tim) Gleason
Adam Stanek
Mary Wilson

February 2

Joyce Keith
Megan Winters
Jennifer Still

February 3

Linda Dotson
Jessie (Jessica) Peterson
Stacey Ragan
Rachael Plantholt
Lucas Renfrow

Kenneth Sturm

February 5

Matthew Hoffmann
Derek Sieg
James Rohman

February 6

Mary Timler

February 7

Colton Smith
Fynlee Schmid

February 8

Kathryn McNeely

February 9

Andrea Irving
Andie Hebel

February 10

Taygan Hursey
Anna Nord
Amy Westbrook

Louis Ziemer

February 11

Timothy Gerike

February 12

Ella Ary

February 14

Linda Ladage

February 15

Christopher Dixon

February 16

Lynda Krueger
Janet McBeath

February 17

Eric DeWerff
Grace Sieg

February 18

Stanley Nord

February 19

Mya Arnold
Kristine Krueger
Robert Arnold

February 20

Justin Maitland

February 22

Maddux Ragan

February 23

Skyler Bagby
Paul Dietsch
Avery Wietfeldt

February 24

Bentley Brownfield
Wendalyn Nesby
Alexis Ropp
Lawrence Sutter

February 25

Angela Hanslow

February 26

Cailyn Grieshaber

February 27

Alanie Custer
Gena Filter
Melody Foley-Glidden
Laurence Foley
Austin Walker
Hayden Custer

February 28

Diane Smith
Becky Trimble
Deanna Ginder-West

February 29

Jessica Hoskins

February 5

Tyler & Brandi Scroggins, 24

February 7

August & Bette Berning, 60

Carl & Janet Peifer, 60

February 11

David & Michele Krueger, 30

Christopher & Heidi
Chambers, 12

February 14

Michael & Teri Meisner, 43

Mark, Sr & Tara Flynn, 20

Yaw & Angela Opoku-
Agyemang, 15

February 20

Derek & Amy Kidwell, 14

February 22

Steve & Penny Trower, 27

February 23

Cary & Margaret Bottorff, 33
Justin & Abby Slager, 5

February 25

W. Gregg & Cathy Winters, 47

(continued from page 5)

We're Real

We've had families share that as they arrived for tours, they were nervous that they wouldn't be welcomed because they didn't fit the stereotypical "private school" image. But once they walked in and met us, they were relieved to discover that WE don't, either. One of the things that families seem to treasure about TLS is that we are REAL. Free to be as God made us. We have different personalities, backgrounds and career fields. We each individually look the way we look, and drive whatever it is we drive. What joins us is what really matters: that we're committed to providing our kiddos with well-rounded educations that have Jesus at the center, and that we're here to be the Family of God to each other."

I know Trinity is not a perfect school. We have things to improve. Yet, Christ points out, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Luke 5:31-32.

I believe that in this Lutheran School, we endeavor to hear and teach God's call. First, His call says to each of us, "I love you." And His call says, "I love you so much that I don't want you left in your sin". Here we have the opportunity to teach our students and each other the joy of knowing Christ who died to pay for our sins, Christ who rose to give us life, and Christ who calls us to love Him and our neighbor. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your family and living this powerful calling.

TLS ENROLLMENT AND REGISTRATION

Re-enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year is now available! We look forward to continuing to serve you and your student(s). On January 29, we will open enrollment to all new incoming families in Preschool-8th grade.

Please contact Christina Hansen with any enrollment questions at christinahans@trinkluth.org.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING TLS DATES

February 10 - JV Boys/Girls Basketball Tourney at TLS

February 23 - Band/Choral Solo & Ensemble Contest at TLS

February 24 - PTL & TLC Family Life Daddy/Daughter Dance at TLS: 2-4PM

