



March Beacon

HELLO FRIENDS OF TRINITY:

We're already into the season of Lent in the church. How did that happen?! I'm doing a re-run of a newsletter article from March 2022 that asks: why Lent? Why do we observe this season in the first place? It's a re-run because I need this reminder as it's a very busy time and the meaning and intent of Lent can get lost in the mix. I know many of us can relate. So here's the gist of that article:

Lent in our Lutheran tradition – like many others – is an ancient practice, a time (40 days not counting Sundays) for us to focus on preparing ourselves to experience the story and the impact of Good Friday and Easter. During Lent, we'll focus on prayer, repentance (to repent means simply 'to turn around'), study and generosity.

Prayer we always do. Repentance, maybe not so much, but to repent is merely to refocus our hearts, our minds, and our lives as a whole back on God. There are an infinite number of ways to do this. Some believe that giving something up is the way, or adding something, or intentional times for reflection...all with the intent on improving ourselves and/or our health whether that's physically, spiritually, or emotionally. It's all good. What are you doing to 'repent' this Lent?

Study is something that can be a challenge to do, but we will have midweek Lenten gatherings and Bible studies with our NOEL cluster siblings (see the announcements later in this Beacon) to help. And as for generosity - loving and caring for God's people, I know you all are generous already with your time, talent and treasure.

But, why Lent? I've answered, 'what Lent?' and 'how Lent,' but why? Speaking for myself, this is a time for me to realize again [and again] and immerse myself in the fact that I'm only human, and I mess up. I need grace. I need to be reminded that I am enough, that I am forgiven, and that God

loves me. Lent is a great time to focus on what God did, does and will always do for me so that nothing I ever do (or not do) will mess this fact up for me. This is why I need Lent. And it all leads to the cross, and the power of the cross over those things that are 'death-dealing' in my life.

This is not the only reason for 'why Lent?' but I hope my take on Lent can help you as together we take our Lenten journey towards the cross, and towards the Sunday that is surely coming (and always does) on Easter.

Blessings and prayers as you answer for yourself what Lent means for you. I hope this re-run can help.

Pastor Rick

Office Hours:

Pastor Rick: Tuesdays 10:00-1:00 p.m. and by appointment

Tracy: Tuesdays: 9:30-2:30, Thursdays: remote. Call, text or email any time.

(Tracy will be away from March 1-5)

CHOIR is back – rehearsals are at
8:30am on Sundays

Please Hold in Prayer

To add someone to the prayer list in the bulletin/beacon, add them to the list in the back of the Sanctuary or contact the church office. If you would like your prayer concern to be shared through our One Call Prayer Chain, please contact Sue Kidder at 716-542-2095.

We pray for healing, strength and patience for those we love going through difficult times:

Laura Pingitore

Jane Firestone

Lynn Aiosa

Rosemary Doyle

Nancy Guthrie and family

Christine Johnson

Mike Kropelin
Theresa (Jen's friend)
Erin Polkowski
Amanda Dehn
Harold Finger
Elizabeth Ewell

We pray for patience, strength and support for the families and friends of:

Ruth Folger
12-year-old Charlotte Main
Stephen Gregory



Sunday worship is weekly at 9:30am!

Sunday School is (mostly) weekly at 10:45-11:30

March 29th: Palm Sunday at 9:30am

April 3: Good Friday at 7:30pm

April 5: Easter Sunday at 9:30am



Meeting: March 10th @ 7:00 (and then, next month is April 14th)



Save the date: Good Friday Worship is April 3 at 7:30

Easter Sunday is April 5th at 9:30am followed by pot-luck brunch and easter egg hunt

Save the date: Our Spaghetti Supper will be April 25th

Lenten Soup Supper

The Lenten Soup supper at Trinity is on **March 11th**. A signup sheet will be posted on March 1st – please take a look. We need 4 different soups (each on to feed 18-20 people), desserts and French or Italian bread. We are asking for your help on this – chicken noodle, vegetable, something creamy or chili. Desserts can be something simple like Timbits, brownies or cookies, or whatever you like. Thanks for all your help!

First Bibles

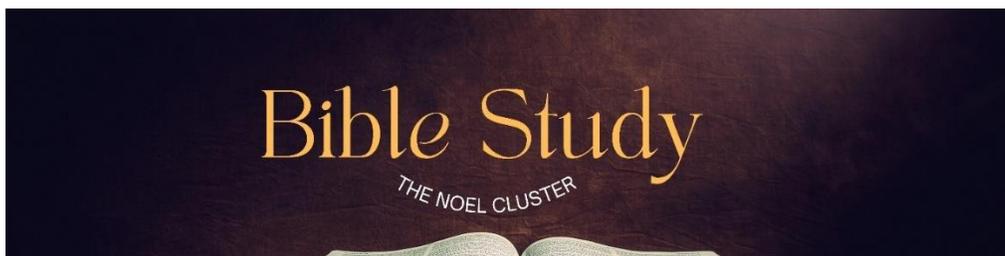
As a part of our baptismal promise to "place in their hands the holy scriptures," Trinity offers a first Bible program for children in grades 3 and up. Families would gather for a first Bible class, have some fun homework to do, and then Trinity would present children their new study Bible during a worship service. Please see Pastor Rick by **March 8th** if you want your child to be a part of this program. Our class will be later in March, with the presentation of Bibles happening later in April.

Sign up for Altar Care

We're starting a new Altar Care ministry and we need your help. Please sign up in the narthex if you're willing and able to care for our altar for a month at a time, starting with March. Responsibilities would include setup and cleanup of communion each week; and as needed filling candles with oil, changing paraments and setting up for baptisms. No experience necessary: we will train you. See Pastor or Donna if you have any questions.

Easter Flower Orders

Flower order forms are available now in the narthex. Please be sure to have yours in by **March 15th** so we get our order on time. Setup will be **April 4th** – call, email or text Tracy if you can be here to help so we can plan, or sign up on the altar care sheet in the narthex. 716-579-3612



Lent with the NOEL Cluster

During Lent, we've expanded this collaboration with several opportunities for food, worship, conversation and more. Wednesday evening Lenten Soup Supper and Devotion times continue on **Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm** through the month of March, and we're planning a Maundy Thursday Agape Feast on **April 2nd** at 6:30 pm at Zion in Gasport (no Maundy Thursday service here). We'll also have

our own Good Friday service here at Trinity on April 3rd at 7:30 pm. We hope you'll come to help host here at Trinity and join us on the road as we are guests at our neighboring churches.

Bible Study Upcoming dates and locations: (10 am on Thursdays)

3/5/26 – St. John's – 10213 Rosevelt Hwy, Lyndonville 14098

3/12/26 – Here at Trinity

3/19/26 - St. Peter – 1355 West Ave, Medina 14103

3/26/26 - Trinity Wolcottsville – 6369 Wolcottsville Rd. Akron

4/2/26 – NO Bible study on Maundy Thursday



First Monday of the Month: Food Pantry setup @ 8am

First Tuesday of the month: Food Pantry distribution @ 8:30-10:30am

Schedule:

March 2nd setup, March 3rd Distribution

Easter setup is March 30th

Distribution is March 31st

(and then April 6 & 7th)

The Little Free Pantry is open for anyone in need and is supported by donations of items from the community.

WI-FI: Go to 'Trinity Guest' on your device, and then when prompted, enter the password: BeABeacon

Birthdays

MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

- 1st - Julianna Mazur
8th - Bethany Brown
Donna Kumpf
10th - Lois Kruschke
12th - Jerry Edgar
14th - Nicolena Fazio
15th - Melissa Polkowski
17th - Patricia Smythe
18th - Samantha Francis
21st - Ben Blasko
Dan Eckerson
23rd - Carrisa Palizay
25th - Faith Franczak
28th - Laura Pingitore

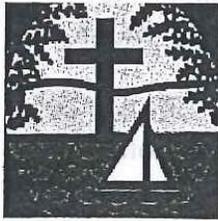
**Lent 2026
Loving
Responses**

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

February 25th
1st Wednesday in Lent

**Lutheran Charities
of Western New York**



March 4th
2nd Wednesday in Lent

**Lake Chautauqua
Lutheran Center**

March 11th
3rd Wednesday in Lent

**Foodlink
and Pantries**



March 18th
4th Wednesday in Lent

**Upstate New York SYNOD
and ELCA**



March 25th
5th Wednesday in Lent

**South Asian
Worshiping Community**

Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

1 Peter 4:8-10

February 25th
First Wednesday in Lent
Soup Supper
Presentation and Devotions
Zion Lutheran Church
4447 Central Ave, Gasport,
NY 14067
6:30-8:00 pm
Hosted by Zion

March 4th
Second Wednesday in Lent
Soup Supper
Presentation and Devotions
Trinity Lutheran Church (W)
6369 Wolcottsville Rd, Akron,
NY 14001
6:30-8:00 pm
Hosted by Trinity Wolcottsville

March 11th
Third Wednesday in Lent
Soup Supper
Presentation and Devotions
Trinity Lutheran Church (SN)
4809 S Newstead Road, Akron,
NY 14001
6:30-8:00 pm
Hosted by Trinity South Newstead

March 18th
Fourth Wednesday in Lent
Soup Supper
Presentation and Devotions
St. Peter Lutheran Church
1355 Wedt Ave, Medina,
NY 14103
6:30-8:00 pm
Hosted by St. John's

March 25th
Fifth Wednesday in Lent
Soup Supper
Presentation and Devotions
First English Lutheran Church
185 Locust St. Lockport,
NY 14094
6:30-8:00 pm
Hosted by First English

April 2nd
Maunday Thursday
Agape Feast
Pot Luck Supper & Worship
Zion Lutheran Church
4447 Central Ave, Gasport,
NY 14067
6:30 - 8:00 pm