

The Trumpet

Trinity Lutheran Church

509 Center Street, Bryan, OH

419-636-3387

Pastor Mary Beth Smith-Gunn

Deacon Jean Wise

Guided by
the Holy Spirit,
Trinity Shows & Tells
God's Love in Word & Deed
with ALL!

Pilgrimage Ponderings

Zoom

9:00am Parish Fellowship
February 13, 2021



February 14, 2021
Valentines Day



February 15, 2021

Ash Wednesday
February 17, 2021



Given the delay in the postal service, it's possible that you will receive this missal about the same time as Lent begins. Lent is an interesting time in the church's common life, coming around annually between the season of Epiphany and Easter. It is founded in the reality that the days are lengthening as we transition from winter to spring, and that in turn, theologically, gives the believer an opportunity to ponder the wonders of God's ever-renewing work, bringing life from death, creation awakens and hope is restored. Some would say that Lent is full of denial and discipline. To be sure, there is an element of denial - which leads to awareness and reflection; and there is an element of discipline - like an athlete who recognizes that daily conditioning makes the event of competing an act of readiness.

One of the gifts of Lent is the gift of ongoing celebration of the resurrection each Sunday - the days of lent are 40, beginning with Ash Wednesday, concluding on Maundy Thursday, and excluding Sundays. Those weekly observances of resurrection hope and joy are the regular opportunity to celebrate the fullness of God's promise and God's providence which is based on God's grace and love, having nothing to do with our worth or our efforts to merit God's gifts.

This year, as perhaps none before, I will relish those Sundays. They are reminders as we make the journey through life with all the ups, downs, curves and crashes, that the journey is not the destination. We are destined to be delivered safely into God's eternal presence and God keeps that promise.

Lent plans are still in formation. Deacon Jeanie and I are in conversation with the congregational leadership regarding worship - in-person or remote, and we will do everything we can to keep the congregations apprised of the decisions. If you

hear of new decisions made please make it your task to share those decisions broadly with your friends and family - doesn't matter if those people are part of the congregation you affiliate with or not, God's circle always includes far more people than our human mind considers.

This one thing we do know - that Ash Wednesday will mark the beginning of the journey with repentance and reminder of our mortality, and Easter will come with resounding joy in God's power freeing Jesus and you and me from the grip of eternal death.

Peace be with you all, always!

Pastor Mary Beth

Pastor Mary Beth Smith-Gunn



Worship Focus for February

February 6th & 7th

Fifth Weekend after Epiphany

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (*diakonia*). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless: like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

February 13th & 14th

Transfiguration of Our Lord

The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

February 20th & 21st

First Weekend in Lent

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

February 27th & 28th

Second Weekend in Lent

The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.



Return Service Requested

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Trinity Lutheran Church
509 Center Street
Bryan, OH 43506

The

Trumpet

Trinity Lutheran Church
February 2021



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Bryan, OH 43506



Wise Words

I am not a runner. Yes, I do walk for exercise but run? No way! If I did try running, I am sure I wouldn't go far before gasping for air or collapsing. My legs and my heart aches with the thought of running a marathon.

Yet, in many ways we are all running a collective marathon right now. It has almost been a year we have endured this pandemic - a life event we didn't choose, can't control, and we are not sure when it will be over. We are tired. We desperately want to get back to how we used to do things. We are emotionally and spiritually exhausted.

"Hitting the wall" is a phrase marathoners use when every step feels like you are wading through concrete and you begin to doubt if you will ever see the finish line. In reality this feeling of defeat and discouragement usually arrives at about mile 20 of the 26 miles journey - more than halfway. The end of the race is closer than they realize.

Researchers have discovered that though the runner feels they can't go on, once they reach deep inside themselves, they find the strength and courage to keep going to complete the race before them.

We can complete this race too. God provides the strength and courage to continue forward. Two of my favorite verses from the Bible are Hebrews 12: 1-2: "Therefore since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us 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."

We are people of faith. Yes, we may experience emotional and spiritual exhaustion, but we are people of endurance when we look to Jesus.

We can fill our spiritual reserve by prayer, time with God, worship and scripture. We share with one another, listening when the other needs us. Crying with them. Companionship with them. Also sharing with them what we are experiencing knowing that two can carry a heavy load better than one.

We can sing and praise God for his goodness and kindness even in tough times. I love the story in Exodus 15 where the women packed and brought along their tambourines. As they outran the Egyptians, they didn't know when they would dance again, but they were ready when the time arrived.

Get your tambourines ready. Fill your spiritual tank. Break through that wall and keep going. We can do this! God is good.

Jeanie

Sabbatical Part 2 The second month of sabbatical will feature a trip to San Francisco, which Pastor will share with her children, Josh & Rachel, where they will volunteer at the feeding ministry of St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church, and experience dinner church. Sightseeing and exploring the area will fill non-volunteer time. Then pastor will spend a week in the Los Angeles area volunteering with Abundant Table Ministries - a community supported agricultural ministry, where she will be able to learn more about the integration of growing food and growing faith. From Los Angeles she departs to New York, NY for a few days of experiential learning at St. Lydia's Lutheran Church, which was recently featured in Living Lutheran for its dinner church ministry. Finally, a trip to Raleigh, NC will conclude the second month. While in Raleigh pastor will study dinner church ideas and bread baking with Kendall Vanderslice, author of We Will Feast.

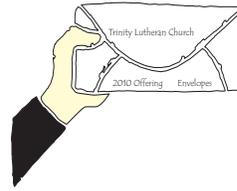
The second month of sabbatical in the parish congregations will feature an exploration of gardening as a faith practice. First Lutheran's community garden will be an avenue of experiential learning. Additionally a book study of "One Size Fits None" a look at regenerative agriculture, by Stephanie Anderson, will be shared in person or remotely, including a ZOOM conversation with the author.

More information to come next month.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The month of February brings birthdays for three of our Trinity members... On the 1st of February, Mary Arnold, Live Oaks Assisted Living, 2300 N Cedar Street, #11, Foley, AL 36535, turns 93. On the 2nd Marilyn Feather, 830 Rivers Edge Lane, Painesville, OH 44077 joins the group as an octogenarian with her 80th birthday. Celebrating his 90th and now a nonagenarian on the 20th is Don Collins, 06586 St. Rt. 15, Defiance 43512. God's blessing to the three of you.



You are welcome to stop by the church to pickup your 2021 offering envelopes from the table at the bottom of the steps in the basement.

The 2020 giving statements were mailed on Wednesday, January 20th. Due to the mail being a bit unpredictable, if you don't receive it in a timely manner you can give Amanda a call 419-636-6414 and she will print you another copy so you could pick it up at the church.

Thank you

Thank you to Joe Whisler, Brett Whisler, Rich Reed, Henry Burklo and Steve Krill for various post-Christmas tasks at the church, including returning the outdoor nativity to storage and re-locating the tables in the Rainbow Room.

Thank you to Rhonda Fackler for painting the Rainbow Room floor, which was previously damaged by a May 2019 flood in the church basement, and touching up some of the paint on basement walls.

Thank you to the Rick Taylor Family, the Fireovid Family, Rich & Kim Reed, the JC Moore Family, Cathy Leu, Marsha Kirkpatrick, Lynnette Diaz and Rhonda Fackler for the "behind the scenes" help with the Christmas Eve Drive-In Worship service as ushers, luminary locaters and lighters, and luminary creating and bulletin preparation.

Dear Trinity Lutheran Church: We at Never Let Go Ministries would like to thank you for supporting our mission to help create drug free communities. Your very generous donation during this past Christmas season helps us to share hope in many different ways to those lives affected by addiction. Covid 19 not only changed our worldentirely but it also affected those families of addiction in many different aspects. The statistics for drug overdoses and mental health issues both skyrocketed this year. People need hope now more than ever before. Thank you so very much for this amazing donation. Your generosity is truly an enormous blessing to us. In Prayers & Friendship, Victor & Mary Juarez♥

Take 5 for Faith 5 Minutes - 5 Steps - Everyday

Share your ups & downs of the day.
Read the suggested Bible passage.
Reflect on its meaning for you and our world.
Pray for family, friends, the church & world.
Bless yourself & others.

We continue through the New Testament chronologically, with others in the Northwest Ohio Synod.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Feb 1 - 1 Corinthians 13 | Feb 18 - Romans 1 |
| Feb 2 - 1 Corinthians 14 | Feb 19 - Romans 2 |
| Feb 3 - 1 Corinthians 15 | Feb 20 - Romans 3 |
| Feb 4 - 1 Corinthians 16 | Feb 21 - Romans 4 |
| Feb 5 - 2 Corinthians 1 | Feb 22 - Romans 5 |
| Feb 6 - 2 Corinthians 2 | Feb 23 - Romans 6 |
| Feb 7 - 2 Corinthians 3 | Feb 24 - Romans 7 |
| Feb 8 - 2 Corinthians 4 | Feb 25 - Romans 8 |
| Feb 9 - 2 Corinthians 5 | Feb 26 - Romans 9 |
| Feb 10 - 2 Corinthians 6 | Feb 27 - Romans 10 |
| Feb 11 - 2 Corinthians 7 | Feb 28 - Romans 11 |
| Feb 12 - 2 Corinthians 8 | Mar 1 - Romans 12 |
| Feb 13 - 2 Corinthians 9 | Mar 2 - Romans 13 |
| Feb 14 - 2 Corinthians 10 | Mar 3 - Romans 14 |
| Feb 15 - 2 Corinthians 11 | Mar 4 - Romans 15 |
| Feb 16 - 2 Corinthians 12 | Mar 5 - Romans 16 |
| Feb 17 - 2 Corinthians 13 | |



February Scripture Verse

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21



LENT



Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021 will feature Drive-In worship in the Parking Lot at First Lutheran at Noon and Trinity at 6 p.m. Communion and Imposition of Ashes will be included.

Join us for the Lenten Treasure Hunt based on the synod's annual scripture verse, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21.

All worship services will be posted to the parish/congregation Facebook pages and available on Phone Live Stream beginning at noon on Wednesday and available until the following Saturday at noon.

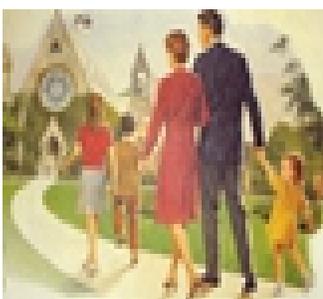
- Week 1: Treasures of the Body
- Week 2: Treasures of the Mind
- Week 3: Treasures of the Heart
- Week 4: Treasures of the Spirit
- Week 5: Treasures of the Pocketbook



Lent is a wonderful time to deepen, to try, or to revisit spiritual practices. I invite you to chose one practice to use regularly during the 40 days before Easter. This year I am going to do two: Praying the church pictorial directory (each morning pray for members as I look at your photos and names) and "Hunt for the Holy" - daily pay attention to where I see God's grace and record this in my journal. Join me? Deacon Jeanie



Join us for Parish Fellowship via ZOOM at 9 a.m. on Saturday, February 13, 2021. Send Pastor Mary Beth an email (pastortlcbyran@yahoo.com) and she will email you the link to join the group. [Then log on at 9 a.m. and enjoy the conversation with folks from throughout the parish.](#)



Resuming In-Person Worship continues to be an item of discussion at church council meetings. Each person who has been elected to leadership in the congregation longs to serve faithfully and diligently seek the wellbeing of the congregation and its members. These are uncharted waters. Any decision to resume in-person activities, including worship, when made will be communicated as broadly as possible. The rostered leaders have asked for at least 2 weeks of transition time so that all the necessary elements of worship may be properly in place. Stay tuned and remain hopeful. In the meantime continue to share in worship via Facebook or Phone Live Streaming.

February 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Happy Birthday Mary Arnold (93)	Happy Birthday Marilyn Feather (80)				
			5:00pm Catechism Small Group - St. Peters			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	6:30pm Finance 7:00pm Council		Catechism Family Creed Lesson			9:00am Parish Fellowship Zoom
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Happy Valentine's Day			Ash Wednesday			Happy Birthday Don Collins (90)
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Deadline for March Trumpet					
28						

February Baptism Birthdays

7	Barbara Gorrell	14	Madison Klinepeter
7	Donna Johnson	21	Spencer Hastedt
7	Ron Kerr	21	Noah Diaz
10	Sarah Vollmer	21	Alex Diaz
11	Eli Kelley-Love	23	Elizabeth Diaz
14	Jacqueline Kelley	26	Luella Weller
		29	Marilyn Feather

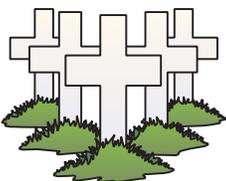
January Attendance & Offerings

Date	Attendance	Offering
1/9/2021 Sat Worship	cancelled	
1/10/2021 Sun Worship	cancelled	\$1,770.00
1/16/2021 Sat Worship	cancelled	
1/17/2021 Sun Worship	cancelled	\$2,566.00
1/23/2021 Sat Worship	cancelled	
1/24/2021 Sun Worship	cancelled	\$1,590.00
initial offering		15.00
building use - kitchen		220.00
memorial		225.00
foundation		0.45



January Trumpet

We mailed the January Trumpet on Thursday, December 31st. We are so sorry that you haven't received it yet and we also have no idea what happened to it. It's lost somewhere in the USPS.



Sincere Christian sympathy and prayerful support to the following...

Ed & Linda Hulbert with the passing of Ed's brother, Roger on December 24th. He was 81.

The family of Barb Gotshall with her passing on December 31st. She was 89.

The JC Moore family with the death of JC's mother, Gaile Moore who passed away on January 1st. She was 85.

Matt, Mandy, Trinity & Wyatt Slabaugh with the death of Mandy's mother, Barb Hancock who passed away on January 8th.

The Jason Johnston family with the death of Jason's grandpa, John Johnston who passed away on January 11th. He was 91.

"Rest eternal, grant them, O Lord: and let light perpetual shine upon them"