

# The Herald

Trinity Lutheran Church  
1141 West Chester Pike Havertown PA 19083

MARCH 2024



*"The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day he created Spring."*

*--Bernard Williams*

### *A Message from Pastor*

As March winds pick up and begin to blow, it seems winter can't decide if it's coming or going here in Pennsylvania. Out west in California there are blizzard conditions with snow (10 or more feet) everywhere. Here on the East coast we are experiencing some rain with temperatures in the 50's and 60's one day and in the 30's and 40's the next. It's a bit confusing even for the flowers, as crocuses begin to poke up a little above the ground, only to get frost bite the following evening. As Spring nips at our heels wanting to burst through, it's clear that change is in the air and creation **is** responding. Maybe the groundhog was right, back in February, Spring **is** in the air and just around the corner. Praise God!

We find ourselves in the middle of Lent, a time for self-examination, reflection, repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation. A time to renew our relationship with God. A time to prepare our hearts to receive once again the gift of love, grace and mercy given to us through the ministry, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Prayer, fasting, alms giving, bible study and acts of kindness accompany us on our forty-day journey through Lent.

Soon Hosanna's (God Save us) will ring out along with "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord" (Psalm 118:26). We, like those of old, will wave our palms in adoration and praise, as Holy Week begins and we walk with Jesus thru his Passion. We will hear the story once again, on Palm/Passion Sunday (March 24<sup>th</sup>) this time from Mark's perspective. On Maundy (Latin for commandment) Thursday (March 27<sup>th</sup>) we remember Jesus words, "I give you a new commandment... to love one another" (John 13:34). We will sit at table with Jesus and share in a meal of bread and wine together, and hear the words "This is my body, given for you... This is my blood, shed for you... Do this in remembrance of me." On Good Friday (March 28<sup>th</sup>) we bear witness to the pain and suffering of Jesus as he was crucified on a cross at Calvary for **our** sake. His words, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mathew 27:46) and "It is finished" (John 19:30) emphasize the agony in his sacrifice and the depth of his love for us. He conquered death so **we** could experience new life and a relationship **with** God. On Easter Sunday (March 30<sup>th</sup>) we will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and discover with Mary and the other women the empty tomb. We will be challenged to share the Good News, to **go and tell** others "He is Risen, He is risen Indeed! When our journey through Lent is complete, we will shout, Alleluia, Christ is Risen! We do not make this journey from ashes to joy and celebration alone. God journeys **with** us. Love conquers death and we move forward into our futures with a renewed faith full of hope.

So blow March winds blow, and usher in a **new** season of hope and possibilities. Because He lives we **can** face tomorrow! Have a blessed Easter!

Peace and Joy,

Pastor Gwen, Interim Pastor {AKA: Rev. Gwendolyn S. King}



**Our Worship Service begins at 10:30 AM.**

Those who cannot join us in person can follow us on “Facebook Live.” Please go to Trinity Lutheran Church Havertown on Facebook and the link is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/trinitylutheranchurchhavertown>

**Worship During Holy Week**

**Palm Passion Sunday**

March 24, 2024

10:30 AM Worship Service

The Bell Choir

**Maundy Thursday**

March 28, 2024

7 PM Worship Service

The Trinity Choir

**Good Friday**

March 29, 2024

7 PM Worship Service

The Bell Choir

**Easter**

March 31, 2024

10:30 AM Worship Service

The Bell Choir

The Trinity Choir

**COUNCIL NOTES**

To highlight our meeting held on March 21, 2024, there were many discussions in preparation for the Lenten season and Easter. Palm Sunday will have a processional entrance for all who wish to participate. On Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship services will be held at 7 PM.

The Youth, TL4C (Teens Living for Christ), will be hosting a pancake breakfast on Saturday, March 30, 2024 from 9-11 AM, and a Community Easter Egg Hunt beginning at 9:30 that same morning. Come and enjoy breakfast and meet the Easter Bunny! Donations of individually wrapped candy is needed to fill the plastic Easter eggs. You may leave the candy with Darlene and she has promised not to eat it all!

On May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, there will be a Synod assembly at the Franconia Mennonite Conference Center in Telford PA. This 2-day assembly is very important and a new bishop will be elected for our Synod. Watching and participating in the process is very interesting and exciting! Trinity will need two voting members (Jenn Pruski has volunteered) and another, male if possible, to represent our church. It is also a good opportunity to talk with other members of our Synod and discuss their ministries.

We, as Council, have discussed many ways that our congregation can help during this period of transition. We, like you, do not want Trinity to fade into the sunset but your participation is needed now more than ever.

Personally, I have been a member here for over 10 years. Each year I, too, have seen the Endowment Fund being used. Thanks to the Finance Committee the fund is being managed and used wisely.

We need ALL members of Trinity to pitch in and stand together

How have YOU contributed to OUR church family? Have you: increased monetary contributions? Given to our food insecure ministries? Helped with food preparation each month? Volunteered to usher, lector, pray the Prayers of Intercession, be on Altar Guild, participate in our choirs or work on a committee? Joined Council when there are openings? All of these only take a few hours of your time, time that is well spent to continue the well-being of our church.

You might think that someone is already doing this or that job! BUT look at who is working for the good of the church and God--it is always the same people time and time again. YOU need to join us to secure a future for us, our children and grandchildren.

Ask the Holy Trinity for guidance and how to make room in your busy life for Father, Son and Holy Spirit plus your church, your church family and the people who we serve through our ministries.

Alice Huntington  
Council President, Friend and Family member of Trinity Lutheran Church

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

#### **Special Giving Opportunities for March is Lent and Easter**

Since we offered a choice on using weekly contribution envelopes most have opted out of having an envelope pack. This option has resulted in all of our important giving categories invisible and mostly forgotten. Out of sight out of mind as they say. In order to remind everyone that these areas still need your support we are going to highlight one category each month. All you have to do is take a plain white envelope, write your name and amount on it and designate the monthly giving category on it or any category you want to support. This will be most appreciated.

March categories to support are Lent and Easter. Last year our Lenten offering was \$245 and our Easter offering was \$455. Let's challenge ourselves to surpass those numbers.

Thank you for your support in these areas as well as your general fund support. Envelopes for each month's category are on the table outside the Sacristy. ~~Barbara Ryan Treasurer

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The Finance Committee is seeking new committee members. The group meets monthly or as needed via ZOOM to discuss the finances of the church. You don't need to brush off your calculator but having a sharp mind and willingness to discuss hard topics is a plus. If you are interested, please reach out to Jenn Pruski, Barbara Ryan, or Pastor Gwen.



**Our Lutheran Charitable Giving for the months March through June is for  
SHARE**

### **MUSIC MINISTRY**

#### **THANK YOU!!**

We have met our Goal!! Thank you to everyone who contributed to  
The Bells Refurbishment! Thank you so much for your support.

Kirsten will be calling to make an appointment for this summer so the Bell Choir can continue to practice and play throughout the Easter and Pentecost seasons.

Thanks again!

God is good, All the time! All the time, God is so good! ~~Kirsten Kratz,

### **YOUTH - TLAC (Teens Living for Christ)**

The Youth have been up to various things over the last few months. Currently Trinity has two youth enrolled in Confirmation with Temple Lutheran.

The joint youth group is continuing to blossom with more youth joining. The 2024 National Youth Gathering is quickly approaching, and we couldn't be more excited. Trinity has partnered not only with Temple Lutheran of Havertown, but also St. Paul's of Ardmore. There are eleven youth registered but we still have room for more. Final registration is April 15<sup>th</sup>. We will be staying on Canal Street right in the center of downtown New Orleans. After spending a few days here for the Youth Extravaganza, I know the youth will have an amazing time this summer. There is so much to see and do here along with learning about the Lord and fellowship.

In the upcoming months we will be hosting more fundraisers so be on the lookout for them.

Upcoming Events:

March 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> Tuscarora Retreat (Registration is still open)

March 30, 9-11 AM Pancake Breakfast in the Social Hall

March 30, 9:30 AM Community Easter Egg Hunt with our Special Guest – The Easter Bunny!

### **PRAYER MINISTRY**

More than thirty people participate in Trinity's Prayer Chain Ministry. We love to hear good news that new can thank God for but we also pray for concerns and sorrows of our Trinity family and their friends and relatives. To be a part of this important ministry or submit a prayer request, please contact Peggy DiSciascio ([peggy@bytemonkey.net](mailto:peggy@bytemonkey.net)) or Darlene Leech ([office@trinityhavertown.org](mailto:office@trinityhavertown.org))

### **PRAYER THROUGH MEMBERSHIP**

The Bazik Family, Ardeth Berg, the Bistline Family, the Buonviri Family, the Burke Family, Richard Campbell, the Carchidi Family, the Carden Family, Liv Carson, the Causland Family, the Coffey Family, the Cornman Family, the Allen Dick Family, the DiSciascio Family, the Doherty Family, Eva Fina, the Amy Gagas Family, Marian Galante, the Garahan Family, the Gdovin Family, the Gerstenkorn Family, Sean Gould,

We especially pray for, Don and Nancy Cornman, Susan Haines, Carol Lyons, Louise Wallace, Glen Miller, Margit Hibben, Debbie Maguire, Richard Campbell, Tom Shiffer, Ashlie King Bratton, Lily Walker, Bridget Dougherty, Jenn Pruski, Kevin Donahue, Jane Boyle, Leola Williams, Louise Van, Lillian and Bill Thompson, Yvonne Price, Andrea Matsinger, Jeanette Dick, Chris Degnan, Bill Wright, Lizz and Joyce Hendricks, Robynn Kelly, Malcolm Wise, Anne O'Hara, Chloe Winters, The Nolan Family, Miriam Albert, Diana Horen, Britt Wilson, and Marc Hoyer.

### **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

Calling all ladies who want to know more about the Bible. You need not be well-versed or know anything, or be available every week -- just have an interest and you are welcome to join our group via Zoom. We meet on Friday mornings from 10 – 11:30 AM. I usually send a link to those who would like to know more – unless someone else is facilitating the discussion and then that person sends the info. Zoom allows people to come when they are on vacation or it is inconvenient to drive a distance; one participant lives in Horsham and another in Lansdale. Zoom is great too if you want to just stay in your pajamas!

Please consider attending – our group is very friendly. We usually begin with prayer and a time to catch up on each other's week and then begin our study. So fix yourself a cup of coffee or tea and find a comfortable chair and log in to Zoom.

For more information, contact Darlene at the church office (610-446-6398) or Peggy DiSciascio ([peggy@bytemonkey.net](mailto:peggy@bytemonkey.net)). ~~Blessings, Peggy

### **SCRIP**

What is a great way to donate to Trinity that will not cost you anymore than you spend to feed your family? Purchase scrip for Acme, Giant or Colonial Village. When you do so, each of these stores takes 5% off the price that the church pays for the gift cards and you can still spend your usual amount. It is easy, and a win-win-win for the stores, the church and you. Please consider participating.

Peggy DiSciascio sells scrip cards on Sundays at church.

### **SOCIAL MINISTRES**

Our food and toiletries donations will be an ongoing ministry and there are boxes on a table by the bulletin board to place your donations. Full-size items will go to the Life Center and individual/mini items will be given to SHARE.

### **The Life Center**

The cooks for the Life Center meal in March were Linda and Karah Weiser. Servers were Ann Shiffer, Fred Sanger II and Fred Sanger III from St. Paul, Lansdowne.

The Life Center now allows groups to serve the meal at the shelter again. During Covid we just dropped off our meals for the staff and residents to serve themselves. If there is anyone who would like to serve at the shelter please contact Ann Shiffer at 484-995-1751 or [t.shiffer@comcast.net](mailto:t.shiffer@comcast.net). It is an enjoyable experience to meet those we provide for, and it only takes about two hours of your entire evening to drive to Upper Darby, serve, and return to you home. I served for 20 years, as have a number of other Trinity members and friends. Give it some thought!!!

### **SHARE**

**Great news! We have volunteers committed to make lunches through May 2024!!!  
A sign-up sheet for 2024 is on the bulletin board. Please add your name(s) and phone number when you volunteer.**

**A list of items requested by SHARE is on the bulletin board.**

Thank you for your generosity! ~~ Darlene

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Tuesday, March 19, 7 PM Church Council – Fritsch Room

Holy Week Worship Services  
(details on page 3)

Saturday, March 30, 9-11 AM Pancake Breakfast – Social Hall

Saturday, March 30, 9:30 AM – Community Easter Egg Hunt

## LENTEN FOCUS

Please join us for the Mid-week (Wednesday) Lenten Gatherings starting Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. We will meet in the Chapel at 7 PM throughout Lent. It will be a time for reflection, with a brief worship component. All are Welcome!

We will be collecting items for the Homeless throughout Lent. We are collecting a different item each week with the most common items that someone experiencing homelessness would need for daily survival.

Sunday, February 18	Comb
Sunday, February 25	Soap bar
Sunday, March 3	Hand Cream
Sunday, March 10	Toothpaste
Sunday, March 17	Toothbrush
Sunday, March 24	Gently used Washcloths/Towels

Join us by bringing in these items on a weekly basis and we will pack them up and take them to the homeless shelter and the Welcome Church along with your love and compassion. Thank you.

*Helping Hands Be Kind Love one another*

## MAY WE COUNT ON YOU?

We need wrapped candy to put in plastic Easter eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 30. You may leave them in Darlene's office; she promises not to eat them all!

Volunteers are needed on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> to lovingly decorate the Easter Cross, place the lilies around the Sanctuary and make sure the Sanctuary looks nice and fresh for Easter.

