

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
433 S. WINSTEAD AVENUE
ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804
(252) 443-7462
www.trinityrm.org

Identity Statement:
With God We Can!

THE JOYFUL NOISE
FEBRUARY 2024

THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS

WEDNESDAY, JAN 31	MEALS ON WHEELS 10:00 AM
SUNDAYS, FEB 4 - 25	SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:00 AM
SUNDAY, FEB 4	FELLOWSHIP MEAL ANNUAL REFLECTION ON A YEAR IN MINISTRY FOLLOWING WORSHIP
SUNDAY, FEB 11	COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEB 14	ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICES 12:00 NOON 7:00 PM
WEDNESDAYS, FEB 21 – MAR 20	MID-WEEK LENT WORSHIP SERVICES 12:00 NOON 7:00 PM

PLEASE READ ARTICLES IN THE NEWSLETTER FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED HERE AT
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH DURING FEBRUARY AND MARCH.
PLEASE ACCEPT THE INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE.
BE SAFE, BE KIND.

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From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

⁸The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

¹⁰He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

¹²as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

¹³As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

¹⁴For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.

Psalm 103

This year Ash Wednesday is February 14 – Valentine's Day!

Now for anyone who includes giving up candy as part of a Lenten discipline, this does not make for much room to celebrate the day with heart shaped boxes filled with chocolates or a sweetheart dinner! But although I'm a

person who is known to enjoy dark chocolate *a lot*, I really like when the two occasions coincide!

Even as we begin this shadowy journey to the cross, travelling through weeks of confession and reflection and calls to repent, when we spend time facing our reality of the *peccator* (sinner) part of our nature, we are never abandoned in a wilderness where God isn't present. Lent is a time to be humbled before Jesus, to remember our brokenness, and the amazing lengths Jesus goes to reclaim each one of us – all the way to Calvary and the grave! An intentional time to face that beyond our grimy sinfulness, Jesus still insists on embracing each of us into His Love.

As the hymn declares – *what wondrous love is this!* And, dear Church, **this** gift of Love is far sweeter than any candy, and lasts far longer than any fancy meal! Forty days without chocolate to a lifetime with Jesus – Valentine's Day or eternity in the presence of Love Incarnate? The sweetness of Jesus' life and love is more than even the best candy and more beautiful than the most decorated card!

Thanks for your partnership in ministry.

You continue in my prayers.

Breathe peace,

Pastor Alice

***Please include in your prayers our members, relatives,
and friends who have requested our prayers:***

people and land threatened by or recovering from recent weather events, for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine and Gaza, Palestine and Israel and all communities wounded by violence, and those who feel there is no one to pray for them.

*If you have added a name to the prayer list, please contact
Pastor Alice and share an update regarding the person.
Names will be rotated off the list every 30 days. Thank you.*

Words of Appreciation

Thank You to Everybody who has given time and effort in assembling bulletins and newsletters in January! We are truly blessed by your partnership in ministry.

Thank You to the folks who share worship leadership!

To My Trinity Church Family,

Thank you all so much for the signed Christmas card and enclosed monetary gift! The card that everyone signed was so special but the gift amount was beyond my greatest expectation. You all are so good to me and I want you to know it's greatly appreciated. You all are wonderful friends!

Thank you,

~substitute organist ~

Meals on Wheels Trinity is scheduled to help deliver meals on **Wednesday, January 31, 2024**. Please pick up meals at **First Presbyterian Church** at **10:00 am**. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the Gathering Space.

Please contact the church office if you have any questions. Thanks!

Love Meals. First Sundays are **Love Meals Sundays**. Please bring non-perishable foods to stock our food pantry for those who are in immediate need of help with feeding themselves and their families. If you have any questions, please talk with Pastor Alice. Thanks.

Please Mark Your Calendars and Reserve the Date!

Sunday, February 4, 2024, will be our Annual Reflection on the Year of Ministry after worship.

Lunch will be served. Please plan to stay! God calls us in many ways to be partners in ministry during 2024!

Book Group On Tuesday, February 13, 2024, our Book Group will meet at **11:00 am** to discuss *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck The March selection is *Rip Van Winkle* by Washington Irving. Everybody is welcome!

Ash Wednesday, February 14

Two worship opportunities will be available –
at **noon and 7:00 pm.**

Both will offer Imposition of Ashes and Eucharist.

Lent Mid-Week Worship

This year, we will gather in **Resurrection Hall** for a quiet pause for reflection. Two worship opportunities will be available - at **noon and 7:00 pm.**

The theme is ***You Shall Love the Lord Your God.***

The schedule and each weekly focus:

February 21 Hear, O Israel
February 28 You Shall Love the Lord Your God with
All Your Heart
March 6 You Shall Love the Lord Your God with All
Your Soul
March 13 You Shall Love the Lord Your God with All
Your Mind
March 20 You Shall Love the Lord Your God with All
Your Strength
Invite someone to come and share this worship time.

Holy Week Worship Opportunities

Palm/Passion Sunday, March 24

Worship is at 10:00 am and will begin in the front parking lot (weather permitting!) and move into the Sanctuary with a procession of palms.

Holy Wednesday, March 27*

a Service of Prayer for Healing which will offer anointing and Eucharist

Maundy Thursday, March 28*

a service offering individual absolution, Eucharist, and Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, March 29*

the ancient Service of Tenebrae

**These worship services will gather at noon and 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.*

Also, please use the **Lent Devotional Booklet** prepared by leaders in the congregation as part of your Lenten discipline. Copies will be available by Sunday, February 11, 2024.

**Thank you for your companionship
in this sacred journey.**

Awareness of Homelessness in Our Community On **Thursday, March 7, 2024, 6:00 pm** at the **Booker T Theater, 170 W. Thomas Street, Rocky Mount, NC**, the Rocky Mount Police Department will host an opportunity for public education and discussion about the challenge of homelessness in our community. Part of the event will be a panel to offer information, perspective, and resources. Pastor Alice has been invited to participate on this panel. Please plan to attend this important event. And keep our brothers and sisters who have no safe shelter in your prayers. Thank you.

Weekly Worship continues to be posted usually by late Sunday afternoon, on our Facebook page and on YouTube. Later in the week, the worship service is available on our website – www.trinityrm.org.

**Congregation Council
Cluster Reports
January 6, 2024 meeting**

Worship

Please read separate article and bulletin announcements with more information.

- February 11th- Transfiguration of Our Lord (white)
- February 14th- Ash Wednesday (purple) 12 noon and 7pm in the Sanctuary
- Mid-week Lent services at 12 noon and 7pm will gather in Resurrection Hall
- February 21st
- February 28th
- March 6th
- March 13th
- March 20th
- Holy Week – all worship serves are in the Sanctuary
- Palm/Passion Sunday – March 24th, begins outside in front parking lot (weather permitting) with procession of palms into the Sanctuary
- Holy Wednesday, March 27th, Service of Prayer for Healing, worship at 12 noon and 7pm
- Maundy Thursday- March 28th, worship at 12 noon and 7pm
- Good Friday- March 29th, Tenebrae worship at 12 noon and 7pm
- Saturday, March 30th, Prepare Sanctuary for Easter 10:00am
- Resurrection of Our Lord - Easter Sunday, March 31st, worship at 10am

Faith Growing

Christian Education

- The children/youth class now has an average of four students! They use *Kids Celebrate*, a lectionary-based resource.
- The adult class will be studying about 6 psalms, not all written by David, and will conclude our study of David with a summary. Following time with psalms, they will begin a study of Solomon. As always, there is not an exact date on the proposed schedule, and it will depend on the class's weekly progress. There are empty seats in both classes waiting for new folks to attend!
- Other opportunities include 2024 Lent Devotional Booklet prepared by members of Trinity's leadership.
- Watch for announcements for new member classes, First Communion classes; conversation has begun about Confirmation classes (maybe beginning in the summer).

Stewardship

We're looking at offering resources and events in the summer.

More information coming soon!

Caretaking

Family Life

- Two members have accepted the invitation to serve as co-leaders of this ministry. A big thank you!
- Congregation Lunch will be served on Sunday, February 4, 2024, as we gather for our Annual Reflection on Ministry. A sign-up sheet is available on the table in the Gathering Space.

- A sign-up sheet is available for anyone who wants to provide refreshments for the after-worship fellowship gathering on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. The 1st Sunday will celebrate that month's birthdays and anniversaries. It is suggested that cupcakes be served instead of a sheet cake. On the 3rd Sunday, simple refreshments (store bought cookies and bags of salty type snacks are perfect!). Coffee, water, and juice for beverages. There is coffee in the kitchen; also sugar/sweetener and creamers.
- For more information, please talk with Pastor Alice.

Finance - see separate report

Property

- A member has accepted the invitation to serve as leader of this ministry. A big thank you!
- Thanks to others who participate in the routine care of our facility.

Invitation

- Facebook and YouTube continue to be updated on a weekly basis.
- The Book Group continues each month. (please see separate article and bulletins with information about titles and dates/times).
- Meals on Wheels January 31, 2024.
- Highway Cleanup for the first quarter will be announced.

**Council invites any questions or comments.
Please continue to pray for our congregation.**

Thank you.

A Few Words About My Sabbatical

As has been shared with the congregation, we – Trinity and I – have been awarded a grant to provide me with the opportunity for a mini-Sabbatical. A mini-Sabbatical is six weeks; mine will be April 1, 2024 – May 13, 2024 (returning to the office on Wednesday, May 14, 2024). This grant will provide Trinity with an interim pastor who will lead Sunday worship, spend one day per week in the office, attend the council meeting, and be available in case of emergency pastoral care. I am pleased to tell you that Rev. David Sloop, retired ELCA pastor who lives in Raleigh, has accepted the invitation to serve in this role. I am still in the planning stage of my Sabbatical but here is some of what I'm looking to use this time for – spend time at Loaves and Fishes outside Austin, Texas (this is a unique community that addresses homelessness); hike a small part of the Appalachian Trail; visit The Guthrie Center in Barrington, Massachusetts (a spiritual center). During our time apart, you will be cared for by Pastor Sloop. He will contact me if he feels it necessary. I am very grateful for this grant and excited about being able to grow as your pastor and as a person. My expectation is that when we re-gather, we'll all have lots to share!

I ask that you keep me in your prayers. You continue in mine.

Breathe peace, Pastor Alice

Easter Lilies – The cost for each plant will be no more than **\$8.00. Orders are due by February 25, 2024; payment is due by March 17, 2024.** An order form is included in this newsletter and will also be available in coming bulletins and on the information table in the Gathering Space. For more information, please call the church office at 252-443-7462. Thank you.

Easter Lilies

As is the tradition of our congregation, there will be opportunity to purchase lilies to adorn the chancel on Easter. The price is \$8.00 per plant. Please include payment (checks are payable to Trinity Lutheran Church, note *lilies* in memo line) with completed form and place in the offering plate. **Orders are due by Sunday, February 25; payment is due by Sunday, March 17.** For more information, please see Pastor Alice or call the church office at 252-443-7462. Thank you.

I/We would like to give a lily

In memory of _____

Given by _____

In honor of _____

Given by _____

To the Glory of God

Given by _____

Number of plants _____ @ \$8.00 each

Amount due _____

for office use

Check _____ or Cash paid _____