

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

**[www.trinityrm.org](http://www.trinityrm.org)**

***Identity Statement:  
With God We Can!***

**THE JOYFUL NOISE  
MARCH 2024**

**THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS**

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>WEDNESDAY, FEB. 28</b>      | <b>LENT MID-WEEK WORSHIP<br/>NOON/7:00 PM</b>                   |
| <b>SUNDAYS, MAR. 3-MAR. 31</b> | <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL<br/>9:00 AM<br/>WORSHIP<br/>10:00 AM</b>       |
| <b>WEDNESDAYS, MAR. 6-20</b>   | <b>LENT MID-WEEK WORSHIP<br/>NOON/7:00 PM</b>                   |
| <b>TUESDAY, MARCH 12</b>       | <b>BOOK GROUP<br/>11:00 AM</b>                                  |
| <b>SATURDAY, MAR. 16</b>       | <b>SPRING CLEAN-UP<br/>9:00 AM<br/><i>RAIN DATE MAR. 23</i></b> |
| <b>SUNDAY, MAR. 17</b>         | <b>COUNCIL MEETING<br/>AFTER WORSHIP</b>                        |
| <b>SUNDAY, MAR. 24</b>         | <b>PALM/PASSION SUNDAY</b>                                      |
| <b>WEDNESDAY, MAR. 27</b>      | <b>HOLY WEDNESDAY<br/>NOON/7:00 PM</b>                          |
| <b>THURSDAY, MAR. 28</b>       | <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP<br/>NOON/7:00 PM</b>                 |
| <b>FRIDAY, MAR. 29</b>         | <b>GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP<br/>NOON/7:00 PM</b>                     |
| <b>SUNDAY, MAR. 31</b>         | <b>RESURRECTION SUNDAY</b>                                      |

**PLEASE READ ARTICLES IN THE NEWSLETTER FOR MORE INFORMATION  
ABOUT MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED HERE AT TRINITY LUTHERAN  
CHURCH DURING MARCH.**

**PLEASE ACCEPT THE INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE.  
BE SAFE, BE KIND.**

**TRINITY LEADERSHIP**

Pastor: Rev. Alice Johnson-Curl

[pastortlc@trinityrm.org](mailto:pastortlc@trinityrm.org)

252-443-7462

**Administrative Assistant:**

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252-443-7462

**From the Pastor's Desk**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Isaiah 64:6-8

One of my favourite images of God is that of the Holy Potter. I imagine God taking me into God's strong and loving hands and molding me like clay. If you've ever worked with clay or watched someone do so, you know the action is sometimes gentle and smoothing and other times stretching and firm. That's what it is to be shaped by God, to be fashioned into the vessel God intends us to be. As God's children, we are called into a dynamic relationship, one that invites us to grow in how we serve

God and others, in how we see God and others, in how we live with God and others.

Luther wrote - This life, therefore, is not godliness but the process of becoming godly, not health but getting well, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not now what we shall be, but we are on the way. The process is not yet finished, but is actively going on. This is not the goal but it is the right road. At present, everything does not gleam or sparkle, but everything is being cleansed.

None of us is a finished product but all are still in the process.

Lent invites us into an intentional time of reflection and confession and learning, of being molded by the Potter's hands, of being in God's process.

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:***

for people and land threatened by storm or recovering from other recent weather events, for our brothers and sisters who don't have safe adequate shelter, for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine, Gaza and Israel and Palestine and all communities wounded by violence, and for 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.*

***Our Homebound Members***

**Pray for Our Troops**

## **Words of Appreciation**

**Thank you** to everybody who has given time and effort in assembling bulletins and newsletters in February! We are truly blessed by your partnership in ministry.

**Thank you** to the folks who help prepare for worship and share worship leadership!

**Dear Trinity Lutheran Church,**

The staff of Edgecombe County Department of Social Services and Foster Care Team would like to take this opportunity to extend to you our deepest appreciation for sponsoring our children for Christmas. Trying to ensure that all our children are provided for at Christmas is a huge project that is made a pleasant task due to the kindness of people like you.

Your generosity certainly helped make Christmas much brighter for children who, through no fault of their own, have entered the foster care system. Your thoughtfulness is indeed what Christmas is all about.

Our staff, our foster parents and especially our children thank you. Best wishes for a joyous New Year.

Sincerely,

Social Work Supervisor, Program Manager, and Director

**We want to thank** our Trinity family for the calls, cards, and hugs in sympathy for the loss of our loved one. We will always be grateful for your kindness.

Peace be with you.

The family

**Dear Members of Trinity,**

Congratulations on your 100 years of service to Rocky Mount and all of God's world.

Theresa and I cherish our time in ministry with all of you.

I am so glad that Pastor Ed Harper was able to be with you on Reformation Day last October.

May God's blessings be with you in the coming years.

In God's Peace,  
Rev. Don R. Safrit

**Thanks** for sending the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Trinity. I served at Resurrection during the ministries of George Sims, Timothy Sims, and George Simmons, and often pray for the people and pastor of the current Trinity.

May our Lord continue to bless the ministry of Trinity.

Pastor Bill Hollar

## Lent Opportunities

### Lent Mid-Week Worship

This year we will gather in the Sanctuary for a quiet pause for reflection. Worship is at Noon or 7:00 pm in Resurrection Hall. The theme is *You Shall Love the Lord Your God*. The continued schedule is the following Wednesdays:

- February 28
- March 6
- March 13
- March 20

Invite someone to come and share this worship time.

### Holy Week

**Palm/Passion Sunday is 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.

Other worship opportunities are **Holy Wednesday, March 27**, for a Service of Prayer for Healing which will offer anointing and Eucharist; **Maundy Thursday, March 28**, which will include individual absolution, Eucharist, and Stripping of the Altar; **Good Friday, March 29**, which will use the ancient service of Tenebrae. **These worship services will gather at noon and 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.**

### Easter Sunday – March 31, 2024 at 10:00 am

Plans are still being made for this Highest Festival of the Church. Watch for more information!

**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 Cross**

March 31 through May 12, 2024, we will gladly accept contributions of flowers for the Easter Cross. If anyone has flowers in their yard and would like to assist in this ministry, please contact the church office.

**You Are Invited on Thursday, March 7, 2024, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm, at Booker T. Theater, 170 E. Thomas Street, Rocky Mount.** The Rocky Mount Police Department is sponsoring an educational forum, *Homelessness – Perception vs Reality*. Refreshments will be served. This event is free, but registration is requested to help with preparation. A sign-up sheet is on the white table in the Gathering Space. Pastor Alice has been invited to serve as a panelist. Thank you.

**Please Review the Drafts of the Community Directory and list of Birthdays/Anniversaries** on the white table in the Gathering Space. You are asked to make corrections for the directory and add your name to the birthdays/anniversaries list. Feel free to call the church office or email [officetlc@trinityrm.org](mailto:officetlc@trinityrm.org) Thanks!



**Book Group** We will gather on **Tuesday, March 12** at 11:00-12:30 to discuss *Rip Van Winkle* by Washington Irving. Please note – book group will not meet in April. The book selection originally planned for April will be the book for May 14 at 11:00 am *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway. Everyone is invited to join this time of conversation.

**Clean-Up Day, Saturday, March 16, 2024** At 9:00 am folks are invited to help do some spring cleaning as we prepare for Easter. Inside work will include wiping the furniture in the Sanctuary and washing windows – so please bring cleaning products and rags. Outside will mostly be weeding – so please bring gloves and yard tools. Everybody is welcome to participate in this ministry. If March 16 is rainy, we will plan for **March 23 as a rain date**. For more information, please call the church office. Thanks!

**Weekly Worship** continues to be posted usually by late Sunday afternoon. Google **Trinity Lutheran Church ELCA Rocky Mount NC Facebook** to access the recording. Or go to our website at [www.trinityrm.org](http://www.trinityrm.org), scroll down to worship where you'll find a link to Facebook and YouTube. Remember, you do not need a Facebook account to view, only to comment. All the worship videos are available on our Facebook page for you to watch at your convenience. The website also offers embedded videos for the most recent three services. Hope you'll share this worship time.

**Congregation Council  
Cluster Reports  
February 2024 meeting**

**Worship**

Please read separate article and bulletin announcements with more information.

- February 11<sup>th</sup> – Transfiguration of Our Lord (white)
- February 14<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday (purple) 12 noon and 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Mid-week Lent services at 12 noon and 7 pm will gather in Resurrection Hall

- February 21<sup>st</sup>
- February 28<sup>th</sup>
- March 6<sup>th</sup>
- March 13<sup>th</sup>
- March 20<sup>th</sup>

Holy Week – all worship services in the Sanctuary

- Palm/Passion Sunday – March 24<sup>th</sup>, begins outside in front parking lot (weather permitting) with procession of palms into the Sanctuary
- Holy Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, Service of Prayer for Healing, worship at 12 noon and 7 pm
- Maundy Thursday – March 28<sup>th</sup>, worship at 12 noon and 7 pm
- Good Friday – March 29<sup>th</sup>, Tenabrae worship at 12 noon and 7 pm

Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, Prepare Sanctuary for Easter,

10:00 am

- Resurrection of Our Lord – Easter Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, worship at 10 am

## **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***

- Sandra Cobb and Margaret Hinrichs 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays. The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday will celebrate that month's birthdays and anniversaries. It is suggested that cupcakes be served instead of a sheet cake. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 contact the church office.

*Finance - see separate report*

### ***Property***

- A congregation 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.

### **Mini-Sabbatical Update**

I am getting really excited about my mini-sabbatical! I am excited for the opportunity I'll have to learn and grow and be restored. I am also excited for the opportunity for Trinity to learn and grow and be restored.

The start date of my mini-sabbatical is Monday, April 1, 2024; end date is Monday, May 13, 2024. You will be well cared for by Rev. David Sloop, a retired ELCA pastor. Pastor Sloop will lead Sunday worship and be in the office on Mondays. He will also be available for pastoral care emergencies. If there is a need, please contact the congregation president or administrative assistant, and they will contact Pastor Sloop. Please understand, I will not be available since I'll be travelling or on-site studying. Pastor Sloop will contact me if he feels it is necessary.

Here's my itinerary (although still a bit rough):

Drive to Austin, TX; spend several days at Community First! Village; drive back to Rocky Mount, NC.

Drive to Blacksburg, VA; hike part of the Appalachian Trail called Kelly Knob; drive back to Rocky Mount, NC.

Drive to Great Barrington, MA; spent several days at Guthrie Center; drive back to Rocky Mount, NC.

Back to Trinity on Tuesday, May 14, 2024.

Rev. Danielle DeNise, deployed staff, suggested that I apply for a grant to help defray the cost of the mini-sabbatical. I submitted the grant, requesting half the expected amount that the mini-sabbatical will cost. The synod committee meets in March.

Pastor Sloop will share worship with us on Sunday, March 17, 2024. The congregation will have the chance to greet and meet him during the after-worship fellowship gathering.

This is a gracious time for all of us. I am humbled by the grant already awarded to fund an interim pastor, and hopeful that the second grant will be approved to provide some funding for the mini-sabbatical. I'll miss you while I'm gone, but look forward to returning with a renewed spirit and energy for our ministry together.

You all continue in my prayers. I ask that I would be included in yours.

Breathe peace,  
Pastor Alice