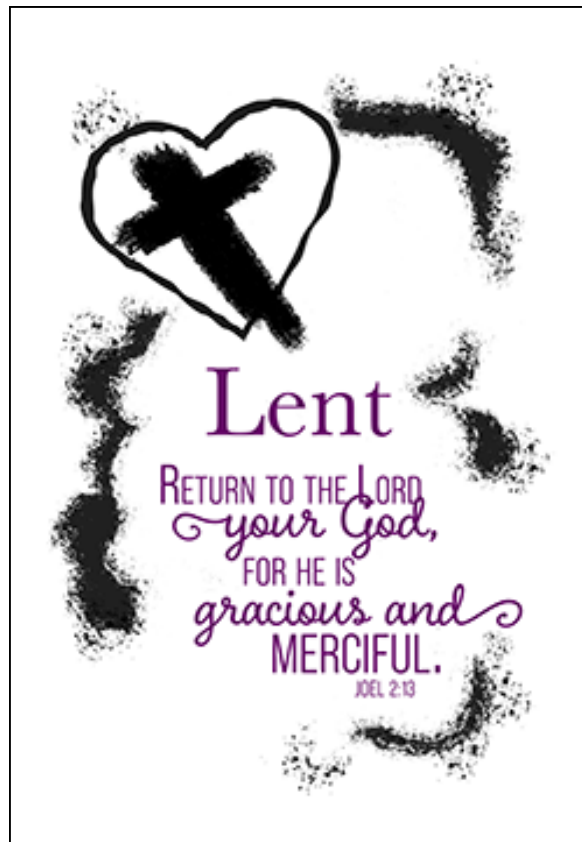




MARCH 2025



701 East Florida Avenue
Urbana, Illinois 61801
trinity-urbana.org
Phone: 217-367-8923
Rev. Joel Cluver, Vacancy Pastor

Liturgical Worship - Saturday - 5:30pm and Sunday - 8:30am Contemporary Worship - Sunday - 10:45am
Join us online - Sunday - 8:30am & 10:45am



Dear Friends in Christ:

This coming Wednesday, March 5th we are privileged to begin another season of Lent.

Lent is a special time of the year when we can ponder again the suffering and death of our Savior Jesus Christ for us. God placed on Him the sins of us all!

Please take time and join us not only on Saturday or Sunday, but also every Wednesday evening at 6pm for our special Lenten Services.

Every Wednesday evening we will hear Lenten Sermons "Preached by Jesus' Enemies". Some of them spoke more truth than they realized. Some meant one thing when they spoke, but God used their words to say something else, something better, something true.

Join us every Wednesday (March 5,12,19,26, April 2,9) at 6pm (service over before 6:45pm) and hear:

Caiaphas: "It is better one man should die for the people."

Pilate's Wife: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man."

Sanhedrin: "We heard Him say it ourselves."

Pilate Soldiers: "Hail, King of the Jews."

Judas: "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood."

Chief Priests: "He saved others, but He cannot save Himself."

When Jesus' disciples fell asleep in the Garden of Gethsemane on Maundy Thursday evening while Jesus prayed, Jesus returned to them and said, "Could you not watch with me one hour?"

How about us? Can we give Jesus an extra hour each mid-week Lenten Service?

Yours in Christ,
Vacancy Pastor Joel Cluver



Food

Our bodies need nourishment and how we get that is by eating food. It has been said that Lutherans love to eat. At the three churches that I was a member of, there were plenty of meals. Anything from Pot Lucks and Pitch Ins (for the Indiana folks) to October Fest and the August Fest that Trinity use to have. Advent meals, Lenten Meals and sometimes a Seder meal, barbecues and Pizza to name a few.

Our bodies cannot go without food for very long. We get weak and cannot sustain ourselves without nourishment. The Israelites felt this while on their journey to the promised land. In Exodus 16:3 "The Israelites said to them (Moses & Aaron) 'If only we had died by the Lord's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all of the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into the desert to starve this entire assembly to death.'" As the Snickers commercial says, "They were Hangry".

God took care of the Israelites and gave them Manna to eat in the morning and Quail in the evening. God took care of his people and nourished them with food. When Jesus met the Samaritan woman at the well, his disciples had left to buy food. When the disciples came back they questioned Jesus as to why he was talking to her. Then they encouraged Jesus to eat. His answer in John 4:32, "But he said to them 'I have food to eat that you know nothing about'". The disciples thought someone must have brought him food. Again, he answered them in John 4:34 "My food, said Jesus is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work."

In John 6:42 "Jesus then declared, I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." Jesus is talking about our spiritual nourishment, which we need just as much as we need food and water.

So, are you getting the daily nourishment you need from the true bread of life? We can be fed daily when we truly seek God. I have always wanted to read through the Bible. Every year I would start, then let the world distract me. This year I'm using a 5 day a week reading program that if I miss a day, I can catch up easily. I love getting into God's word. Sure, I remember what's in the Bible and the stories but is absolutely amazing. To me the Bible is alive, talking to me when I read it. It can make me happy, and it can make me sad because it shows me who I am and who God truly is. But I am loved by the Father, have a friend in Jesus, and the Holy Spirit guides me. It is only through the death of Jesus Christ that I know that I'm saved because Jesus is the bread of life.

We can all eat of this bread of life and consume as much as we want.

David Nation



Heavenly Father, we pray that the Holy Spirit guides us as we prepare to call a pastor who will shepherd our flock at Trinity. In Jesus' name, Amen.

On **Sunday, March 23**, the congregation will convene **after the second service** to deliberate on three candidates recommended by the Call Committee following Zoom meetings with each candidate. Here is a summary of what the committee learned about the candidates (*in alphabetical order*):

Reverend Nathan Hill is 39 years of age, and attended seminary at Concordia, St. Louis (M.Div. 2012). He has all the coursework done for a Doctor of Ministry (DMin) degree. His Vicarage was at Trinity Church in Baton Rouge, LA. He serves St. Michaels Church in Winchester, TX (199 communicants, 90 average attendance) which is the only congregation he has served. He and his wife Candice (DCE trained) have 2 sons (John and Carter) who live at home. His current District President's comments regard him as a gifted pastor who relates well to people and is energetic in ministry. He is very strong in stewardship, and active in the community. He is flexible in all styles of worship, with a personal preference toward the tradition handed down through our hymnals. He is Pastoral Leadership Institute trained (PLI – a Ministry Leadership training program) and participates as a chaplain/fire fighter for the Winchester Volunteer fire service.

Reverend Hill defines his passion for ministry in three areas: Teaching; Mission Work; and Counseling in Ministry. He places an emphasis on the sick, injured, homebound, and bereaved. He is passionate about involvement in devotional time, both in congregational worship/Bible study and in the home with family devotion time. He believes in uniting the congregation in one service as he has previously seen factionalism occur. He aims to be active in shepherding and leading God's people, caring pastorally throughout their lives.

Reverend Brian McQuiggin is 46 years of age and attended seminary at Concordia St. Louis (Master of Divinity (M.Div.) 2009). His Vicarage was at Christ/Grace/St. Peters, Columbia NE. He serves River of Life Church in St. Peter, MN (160 average attendance). He just returned from a mission trip to Guatemala, and does summer camp trips every year with the youth of the church. He is a second career pastor having worked in accounting previously. He has served 2 congregations during his ministry, having moved to River of Life in 2021. He acts as chaplain for the Sheriff's office. He and his wife Jessica have 6 children at home (Hannah, Eli, Chloe, Caleb, Rebekah, Rachel) including two sets of twins. Jessica home schools the children. His current District President's comments regard him as personal and caring, meeting people where they are at, and has a passion for outreach. He is flexible in liturgical attitude from traditional to contemporary and is currently in a very contemporary young congregation.

Reverend McQuiggin defines his passion for ministry as hands-on, and prioritizes outreach, counseling, and proclaiming Jesus. He loves to listen. He believes that the best way to minister to people is to become involved in their lives, sharing joys and sorrows, which helps him minister and equip people to live daily as followers of Christ. He strives to put Christ at the center through Word and sacrament ministry. He is passionate about outreach and describes a love for a strong "out of the walls mentality" while strengthening the core of believers and proclaiming Jesus to everyone around us. He looks to reach out of the church and gather with people, to be vulnerable and 'do life together,' a ministry focused on serving the community. (*continued on next page*)

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Reverend Erik Stadler is 55 years of age, and attended seminary at Concordia, Fort Wayne (M.Div. 1998). His Vicarage was at Red Bluff and Corning in CA. He is a second career pastor, having worked in Industrial Sales first. He serves Redeemer Church in Odessa, TX (45 weekly average attendance; 5 kids in SS). He also serves a congregation in Midland which worships 35 weekly. He is a circuit visitor to 10 churches in the area and participates in community coverage, doing 1 service per month in Ft. Stockton (12 members).

He has served 3 congregations during his ministry, all in Texas. He has a Master's degree in Family Science (2008) from Concordia in Seward NE. He and his wife Julie have one daughter (Ava) who currently attends college in Indiana. His current District President's comments regard him as a kind and relational pastor who shows love to people and regards him very strong in visitation and pastoral care. He is flexible in liturgical attitude, kind and evangelical in his faithful approach to ministry. Reverend Stadler defines his ministry as loving with connection to everyone. He describes himself as an introvert who is a loving pastor. He strives to develop strong lay leaders. He is passionate about involvement in Bible study and worshipping together. He looks to always be available to his members.

The Call Committee has not ranked the candidates because all three are qualified to be our next pastor. You can find more detailed information on each candidate in their Pastor's Information Form (PIF) and Self-Evaluation Tool (SET), which are available for review in the church office (217-367-8923). Feel free to ask the Call Committee members about their individual impressions of the candidates. The committee members are Joyce Bell, Phil Bell, Nina Frank, Jennifer Holhubner, David Lange, David Nation, Chris Roegge, Dan Roney, Harry Rouse, DeeDee Williams, and Rick Winkel. (Members Lange and Roegge could not attend the meetings with the candidates.)

Blessings, The Call Committee



At our March meeting, Tues., March 11, at 6:30 pm, we will have a speaker, our own Jan Kane, addressing the topic of recycling of plastics. As always, all ladies of the church and guests are welcome to attend our meetings. Hope to see you there. Feel free to stay for our business meeting as well.

LWML CID Mission Grant #7 – Servants of the Gospel Through Dots

Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) uses funds to produce at least 1,500 volumes of the Braille Bible, large print Bibles, prison Bibles, and other Christian materials, such as scripture calendars. These funds will be used to do just that.

Please pray that God provides the opportunity for those people with visual impairments or incarceration to come to know or continue belief in God through the materials produced by LBW.

Remember keep saving items for our rummage sale, scheduled for May 8-10. This event is used to help fund missions/ community service outreach, and seminary students.

LENTEN GIVING PROJECT



Instead of 'giving up' something for Lent, join us in 'giving' for Lent! Each week during the Lenten Season, Trinity will collect fresh grocery items to add to the food pantry at Grace Lutheran Church in Champaign. A box will be available in the Narthex for you to drop your donation. Please have your donation at church by noon on the listed date.

March 9 - 3 lb. bag of apples
March 16 - Head of cabbage
March 23 - 5 lb. bag of potatoes
March 30 - 3 lb. bag of oranges
April 6 - 1 lb. bag of carrots
April 13 - 3 lb. bag of onions

NOTE: Bags cannot be divided due to health code rules. Please adhere to sizes noted: for instance - two 1 lb bags of carrots is ok, but one 2 lb bag is not. If any clarification information is needed, speak with Jan Kane, Hiliary Rouse, or Dee Dee Williams.

Homeless Care Kits

Winter is a hard time for the unhoused population, so we want to do something to cheer them up after the long, hard season. Women in Mission (LWML) will be collecting supplies to put together homeless care kits throughout the month of March. Items that are helpful include (travel sizes especially):

Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
Deodorant & Hand Sanitizer
Combs & Brushes
Soaps & Lotions
Tissues & Washcloths
Razors & Shaving Cream
Snack Packages & Small Water Bottles
& Whatever else you think might help a person who lives on the go!



**We will put these care packages together at our April meeting,
so feel free to join us to bless the bags together.**

Updates & Reminders



March 5 (Ash Wednesday)

Dinner at 5PM

Service at 6 PM



March 5, 12, 19, 26,

April 2, 9

April 17 (Maundy Thursday)

April 18 (Good Friday)

Services at 6 PM
(No dinners)

EASTER April 20

breakfast between services during the
Sunday fellowship hour

Bingo and trivia hosted by
Kevin Donoho



The



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To the anonymous church member who supplies donuts for weekly fellowship...every week!



And to all who helped with the coffee fellowship in February: Rick & Deb Winkel, Phil & Joyce Bell, Fred & Jennifer Holhubner, DeeDee Williams, and Hilary Rouse! from Nina



To Women in Mission for the generous donation to Pawprint Ministries in support of our training and ministry, from Sterling and Silver



(Sterling is now semi-retired, and Silver has moved up from basic training to the Essentials level. Two more to go!)



To all who contribute items to this newsletter!



To the Reading Buddies at Wee Disciples Preschool!

If you would like to thank an individual, group, or the whole congregation for an act (or acts) of service, just email me at croegge@gmail.com. Thanks!



Wee Disciples Preschool News:

Starting on March 1, Wee Disciples begins community registration for the 2025-26 school year. The registration fee is \$120 for all new students. If you know of any families with preschool age children who may be interested in our preschool program, please share with them that registration has begun. Registration forms and program brochures are available right outside the preschool classroom. We also have a wealth of information on the church/preschool website at www.trinity-urbana.org. I am happy to answer any questions that families may have regarding our program. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

A community Open House for Wee Disciples Preschool is on the calendar for Saturday, March 29, 2025 from 1-3 pm. This is for any families who would like to come and see our preschool.

During the month of March, we will focus our Bible Time on learning about Jesus and his work. We will learn accounts of the amazing miracles that Jesus preformed to teach of God's love and grace to everyone. Also, in the beginning of March we finish our study on the Zoo. Our March Reading Buddy Time is March 5th. We have Chapel with Carol Niemann on March 12 & 13. Spring Break is March 17-21. On March 27 & 28, we have no school and offer a second Parent Teacher Conference time for families.

Wee Disciples Preschool earned \$1,328 in Thrivent Choice Dollars in 2024. Thank you to everyone who designated their Thrivent Choice Dollars towards our preschool! What a blessing these funds are to our program. The funds helped to purchase educational supplies for our preschoolers! If you are interested in designating your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Wee Disciples Preschool, please visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice, call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" when prompted, or contact your Thrivent financial advisor.

Also, there will be a Wee Disciples Dinner-Out fundraiser date coming up in April. Watch for more information about this event in the next newsletter.

God's Blessings, **Karen Rohrer**, Director/Teacher

February Giving Report

Submitted by Marianne Whitacre, Treasurer



	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>	<u>Other Designated</u>
2/2	6,053	16,875	236
2/9	1,079	175	18
2/16	2,668	175	65
2/23	3,423	175	41
Direct Deposit Gifts	750	290	0
Subtotals	13,973	17,690	360
General Fund Budget Need/Month	34,444		

Treasurer Report: I am working with Mary Lynse, the church accountant, to fully understand and then report Trinity's financial statement information. As of January 25, the General Fund report indicated a Total Income of \$16,478.22 with Total Expenses at \$17,308.02. A balance of \$478,876.31 was reported in the Building Fund. The February financial reports will be addressed in the next newsletter.



03/04 Scarlett Steinbach
03/08 Bob Frank
03/11 Gayle Holderfield
03/11 Jerilyn Parks
03/14 Lavonne Schmidt
03/17 Nancy Otis
03/18 Tricia Herman
03/18 Bryan Holderfield
03/18 Marcia Messman
03/19 David Kuehn
03/25 Barb Witte
03/27 Dale Donoho

Trinity Small Groups

Please reach out to the individual group leaders for additional meeting details.

- Women's Book Group - 6:15 p.m.-1st and 3rd Mondays at church (DeeDee Williams)
- Pieces of Love at church - 5 p.m. Wednesdays (Jennifer Holhubner) PAUSED DURING LENT
- Women in Mission at church - "LWML (WIM) - 2nd Tuesday at 6:30p.m. (Faith Wetzel)
- Breakfast Bible Study at Urbana Gardens, 7 a.m. 1st and 3rd Thursday (Phil or Joyce Bell)
- Couples + Bible Study (stay tuned)
- Friday Night Small Group at church (Hilary Rouse)

03/03 David & Andrea Nation (41 years)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 5:30p Worship Service
2 8:30a Traditional Service 9:45a SS & Bible Class 10:45a Contemporary Service	3 6:15p Women's Book Club	4	5 Ash Wednesday 5p Meal 5:30p Choir Rehearsal 6p Service	6 7a Breakfast Bible Study	7 7p Friday Nite Small Group at Church	8 5:30p Worship Service
9 8:30a Traditional Service 9:45a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Service	10	11 6:30p Women in Mission	12 10a WD Chapel 6p Lenten Service 6:45p Choir	13 10a WD Chapel	14	15 5:30p Worship Service
16 8:30a Traditional Service 9:45a SS & Bible Class 10:45a Contemporary Service	17 6:15p Women's Book Club	18 6p Parish Council	19 6p Lenten Service	20 7a Breakfast Bible Study	21	22 5:30p Worship Service
23 8:30a Traditional Service 9:45a SS & Bible Class 10:45a Contemporary Service	24	25 7:30p Ministry Council	26 6p Lenten Service 6:45p Choir	27 No School WD PT Conferences	28 No School WD PT Conferences	29 1-3p Wee Disciples Open House
30 8:30a Traditional Service 9:45a SS & Bible Class 10:45a Contemporary Service	31					