



The Beacon

March 2022

March greetings from Pastor Rick!

Hello friends of Trinity:

March this year starts right off with the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Which made me think about our question for this month: why Lent? Lent in our Lutheran tradition – like many others – is an ancient practice, a time (40 days not counting Sundays) for us to focus on preparing ourselves to experience the story and the impact of Good Friday and Easter. During Lent, we'll focus on prayer, repentance (to repent means simply 'to turn around'), study and generosity.

Prayer we always do. Repentance, maybe not so much, but to repent is merely to refocus our hearts, our minds, and our lives as a whole back on God. There are an infinite number of ways to do this. Some believe that giving something up is the way, or adding something, or intentional times for reflection...all with the intent on improving ourselves and/or our health whether that's physically, spiritually, or emotionally. It's all good. What are you doing to 'repent' this Lent?

Study is something that can be a challenge to do, but we will have midweek Lenten devotions (see the announcement later in this Beacon) to help. And as for generosity - loving and caring for God's people - one way to do that is to jump in with our Diaper Collection this Lent (there's an announcement in here about this too).

But, why Lent? I've answered, 'what Lent?' and 'how Lent,' but why? Speaking for myself, this is a time for me to realize again and immerse myself in the fact that I'm only human, and I mess up. I need grace. I need to be reminded that I am enough, that I am forgiven, and that God loves me. Lent is a great time to

focus on what God did, does and will always do for me so that nothing I ever do (or not do) will mess this fact up for me. This is why I need Lent. And it all leads to the cross, and the power of the cross over those things that are 'death-dealing' in my life.

This is not the only reason for 'why Lent?' but I hope my take on Lent can help you as together we take our Lenten journey towards the cross, and towards the Sunday that is surely coming (and always does) on Easter.

By the way...

My hope is – if covid numbers continue to trend in the downward direction as they have been – that we can soon (very soon?!) lessen our precautions so that we can look at bringing back indoor social interactions that we've been missing so much. Maybe that looks like bringing the hospitality room back to life, or a game night, or potluck dinners, or something like that. Simple things around which we can come back together in-person again to remind ourselves of the relationship we have with each other and with a God who's been with us every step of the way these past two years. The pandemic isn't over yet; and going forward it looks like we may be doing a back-and-forth between more and less precautions from time to time. But know that I like all of you yearn for an end to the pandemic and yearn for more in-person interactions and activities. I cannot give thanks enough for all of you and your patience and sacrifice as we've been loving and caring for each other and our neighbors!

Blessings,

Pastor Rick MG



LIVESTREAMING AVAILABLE

Not able to make it to worship service in person? Don't forget to join us Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. on our livestream. To access it, go to www.youtube.com, type in 'Trinity Akron' in the search bar, and you should find our page. Then click on the day's worship to watch from home.

If you hit '*subscribe*' and follow our channel, you'll get updates and reminders of videos being posted, plus you'll help us get to 100 subscribers - at which point we get our very own YouTube channel web address, making it easier for people to find us. If you are in need of curbside communion, please contact Pastor for that as well.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Instagram if you haven't already! On Facebook we are: Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of South Newstead. On Instagram we are [trinityakronny](https://www.instagram.com/trinityakronny).

Your friendly Covid reminder: Do not come to church if you are feeling ill in the slightest. Let's keep doing what we've been doing so well, loving and caring for our neighbors: mask up, physically distance, washing hands, staying home if you feel ill, and vaccinate/boost if you're able.

COUNCIL

Council Meets at 7pm on **March 8th** .

150th Anniversary Planning Committee

Join us after worship next Sunday (March 6th) for a planning meeting for the upcoming 150th celebrations!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our next Sunday school is on **March 13th**, please join us!
Also, please note there are children's worship bulletins and supplies available every week in the narthex. Please help yourself - note that there are 2 different bulletins for children depending on their age/reading level.

Meetings for the Sunday School planning committee are on March 3rd and 31st this month.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- ❖ *The family and friends of:*
 - ❖ *Gary "Woofers" Stone*
 - ❖ *Bob Nice (Janice's brother)*
 - ❖ *Rodney Bower (Pingitore/Jendrowski families)*

- ❖ *Thanksgiving for: A successful surgery for Jim Kidder*
 - ❖ *Craig Blake is out of ICU*

- ❖ *Strength and healing for:*
 - ❖ *Harold Gardner - upcoming hip replacement*
 - ❖ *Jean Kron - recovery from fall & broken wrist*
 - ❖ *Craig Blake - recovering from hypothermia*
 - ❖ *David Finger - healing*
 - ❖ *Linda Laurie - healing from eye surgery*
 - ❖ *Sue Grill - recovering from fall*
 - ❖ *Sue Wiley - hospitalized with pneumonia*
 - ❖ *Those fighting & recovering from Covid: Wilbur Stone, Pastor Robert Dean*
 - ❖ *Praying for good test results for Gordy Dorr and Deana Groff*

- *Safe travel for: Kris, Vin & Lena Fazio*

➤ Upcoming:

➤ **Ash Wednesday** service will be March 2nd at 7:00pm

➤ **Palm Sunday** is April 10th

➤ **Maundy Thursday** is April 14th at: TBA

➤ **Good Friday** is April 15th at 8:00 pm

➤ **Easter Sunday** is April 17th at 9:30am

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: UPDATE

*The property committee will be meeting this **Sunday** (February 27th) after worship! Stick around and join us, all are welcome!

The congregation members approved the sealing and striping of the parking lot and the rebuild of the 3rd driveway at the annual meeting on January 30th. The property committee says thank you to those who donated to these projects. We hope you will continue to help us on the repair projects. Please make your donation to: The Improvement fund - Property Fund.

I will be reaching out to the contractors that will do small jobs to repair the bad areas of the parking lot.

*Harold Gardner,
Committee member*

Souper Bowl of Caring

Thanks to all who donated to the Souper Bowl of Caring, we raised **\$395.00!**

ADULT FORUM

Join us for adult forum on **March 20th, April 24th and May 22nd**. All are welcome! We will be exploring a new social statement recently developed by the ELCA called "Faith, Sexism and Justice: A Call to Action." Join us in the fellowship hall...the coffee will be on!

MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM

Trinity's Mutual Ministry Team of 3-4 people gathers quarterly to be a support to Pastor Rick. This team offers feedback to pastor, helps pastor process his ministry efforts and is attentive to pastor's self-care. The team is also attentive to the congregation, offering insight they observe and receive that can help pastor grow in his ministry. The team is also a safe place to pass along any suggestions and feedback to pastor in a positive way.

The hope is that this team will further help in accountability and communication between Pastor Rick and everyone at Trinity. Team members are Pastor Rick, Annette Adamczak, David Hofmeier and Lisa Kaminski. Feel free to reach out to the team if you have any questions or feedback.

CHOIR

Choir is meeting on Wednesday nights, immediately following Lenten Devotions at approximately **7:15**. There will be no rehearsal on Ash Wednesday. All are welcome, don't be shy! We are always in need of more voices!

LENTEN MIDWEEK DEVOTIONS

Join us **Wednesday evenings** during Lent (March 9th through April 6th) from **6:30-7:15** as we take a look at *Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion through Ten Objects* by Jill L. Duffield. God is often at work through the ordinary: ordinary people, ordinary objects, ordinary grace. Through the ordinary, God communicates epiphanies, salvation, revelation, and reconciliation. It is through the mundane that we hear God's quiet voice. *Lent in Plain Sight* draws our attention to ten ordinary

objects that Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem.

This year our church will use the season of Lent to facilitate conversation and connection to each other and the meaning of this time in the church year. The goal of these devotions will be to focus on spiritual lessons and recognize how the seemingly ordinary can reveal the extraordinary presence of God in our lives.

Lenten Diaper Collection

This Lent the entire Upstate New York Synod is collecting...Diapers!

What are the consequences of diaper need? One in three families suffers from diaper need in the US. Based on present funding in NYS and many other areas in the US, diapers cannot be purchased with food stamps. Babies who remain too long in a soiled diaper are exposed to increased health risks and concerns. Diaper need creates additional stress and concern for the family as well. Most child care centers, even free and subsidized facilities, require parents to provide a day's supply of disposable diapers; therefore, many parents cannot go back to work or school if they cannot leave their babies at child care.

Trinity is joining in to do something about this! We are collecting size 4, 5 and 6 disposable diapers that will be donated to All Babies Cherished in Batavia, an agency that helps with the needs of young families through support, education and supplies. You can add to the diaper stack that will be growing in front of the altar during Lent starting March 6th and ending April 13th!

WI-FI

Trinity now has community Wi-Fi! To access it, go to 'Trinity Guest' on your device, and then when prompted, enter the password: BeABeacon

AKRON-NEWSTEAD FOOD PANTRY

The food pantry is doing heroic work feeding our neighbors in the community! If you or someone you know is in need, here's when the pantry is open:

- Food distribution is on the first Tuesday of the month, the next ones are: March 1st & April 5th. Easter distribution is on April 12th.
- Set up and distribution occurs between 8-10:30 am. Call Jean Dolph at 716-908-2306 or Sharon Waff at 585-599-3893 for details.

- *Would you like to volunteer? Sharon at sjwaff@yahoo.com.*
- *To donate monetarily, please make checks payable to: 'Akron Newstead Food Pantry*

OFFICE HOURS:

Pastor Rick: Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. or by appointment

Tracy: Tuesdays & Thursdays 11 a.m. - 2 p.m

Be a Beacon - seeking and reflecting the light of the Lord.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

- 1st - Julianna Mazur
Collin Rehwaldt
- 8th - Bethany Brown
Donna Kumpf
- 10th - Lois Kruschke
- 12th - Jerry Edgar
- 14th - Nicolena Fazio
- 15th - Melissa Polkowski
- 17th - Patricia Smythe
- 18th - Samantha Francis
- 19th - Brenden David
- 21st - Ben Blasko
Dan Eckerson
- 23rd - Carrisa Palizay
- 28th - Laura Pingitore

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES:

- 30th - Bill & Linda Lawrie