



February Beacon

Hello Trinity Family,

Welcome to February! The shortest of the months, with Groundhog Day to start, Valentine's Day in the center, and on February 22nd, we begin our Lenten journey with Ash Wednesday. In that spirit comes our "why do we do this in church" question of the month: Why do we observe Ash Wednesday? Why do we use ashes?

Ash Wednesday begins our 40-day (not counting Sundays) Lenten journey towards the cross, and towards the Easter to come (which is on Sunday, April 9th this year). Many Christian denominations observe Ash Wednesday. It is a day that reminds us of our own mortality, and God's desire for us to repent – or simply turn around – and come back towards God.

Ash Wednesday can be traced back through history to the early Roman Catholic church in Rome, when people wore sackcloth when being sprinkled with ashes. The practice of being marked on our foreheads began in the 11th century. Ash Wednesday was adopted by protestants – like us Lutherans – after the reformation in the 16th century, and really became ingrained in US customs (though it was likely done well before this) in the 1970s. The ashes themselves traditionally (but are not required to) come from the burning of the previous year's palms.

In the service on Ash Wednesday (7:00 pm here at Trinity), we begin our repentance in an extended confession of sin. And we have the opportunity to be marked with ashes on our foreheads (or hands, whichever you prefer). We

‘remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return’ in this act.

While Ash Wednesday is not found in the Bible, ashes certainly are. Ashes – or dust – are mentioned as the substance that Adam was created from in Genesis 1:7. Dust shows up again in Genesis 3:19 when Adam and Eve are removed from the Garden of Eden as God reminds them of their origins from creation, the dust of the earth. Isaiah 58:5 mentions the ancient practice of fasting to humble oneself by wearing sackcloth and lying in ashes. And Jesus reminds us of the humility we should keep in mind in observing this sort of repentance in Matthew chapter 6.

For me, Ash Wednesday is messy. I get my finger messy imposing ashes, and I worry that I’ll get my white alb messed up. And I get you all messy with ashes too. Ashes remind us of dirt, of being messy, and our messy, imperfect lives, short as they may be. But we are reminded that despite this messiness, God still chooses to love us and be with us through Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit at work right now in our messy world. Thanks be to God for this Good News!

By the way: while we have Ash Wednesday service at 7 pm on February 22nd, that may not be the best time for all to make it. Ashes can be received at any time of the day. To that end, if you would like ashes but can’t make it in the evening, I will offer **Ashes to Go** in the morning. Simply pull up to the church doors **between 7 and 9 am on Ash Wednesday**, and I’ll meet you at your car to offer ashes and a short prayer. It only takes a minute, but it will get you started on your Lenten journey.

Blessings,

Pastor Rick



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.

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).

Next council meeting: *Monday* February 13 at 7:00

Counters: February: Jennifer, March: Paula, April: MaryLou

Please Pray For...

The Family & Friends of Gary Brauer

Strength & Healing for:

Joanne Goeseke Taylor – Continued healing for ongoing care

Gino Nati – open heart surgery

Ron Smith – broken hip

Elaine Hensel – upcoming tests

Tony –back surgery

Claude Shultz – recovery from surgery

Dale Fennell – recovery from neck surgery

Judy Stuber Rowland – final stages of cancer

Marcy Hatswell – strength to face the days ahead

Emma Corbett – continued recovery

Michael – health issues

Eileen Kittel - cancer

Thanksgiving for: The birth of 2 healthy twins, Zander & Logan – Linda Lowry's great-grandchildren!

Prayers are a powerful way to lift up people who are sick, injured or suffering for God's healing. Let us know of names you would like to have the church pray for, and we'll add them to the list here and in the Beacon. If you wish for names to remain anonymous, you can let Pastor Rick know privately and he'll pray for them silently. Names will remain in the bulletin and Beacon for around a month unless you let us know to extend their listing or remove them sooner. There is a list near the offering collection plate to write names down, or you can leave a message with the church office.

Sunday School

Join us for our next Sunday School dates on February 12th and 26th.
Our March dates are March 12th & 26th.

*Congratulations to our children who
celebrated their first holy communion:*

*Annaleigh Grace Kittel
Samuel Barry Pingitore
Sicily Parker Pingitore
Elizabeth Catherine Rizzo
William M. Rizzo
Kennedy Jean Sundown
Reese Eleanor Sundown
Brook Ashley Young
Cheri Ann Young
Franklin Lucas Young
Jase William Young*

*And Congratulations to **Samuel & Sicily Pingitore**
on their baptisms on January 29th!*

Communion Helpers:

We will be resuming our communion “helpers”! Any child that wishes to help with communion by handing out goldfish to the other children during communion is welcome. Pastor will ask for a volunteer during service and will choose a different volunteer to help each week. Every child will get a chance to help if they desire.

LCLC

4th-8th Grade Winter Retreat **March 3-5, 2023**

You are invited to spend the weekend at LCLC learning about your relationship with God and having an awesome time with new and old friends. Trinity will cover half of the cost for anyone going – see Pastor for details!

The LCLC Winter Retreat includes:

Fun Bible Studies
Meaningful Worships
Campfires, Great Music and S'mores
Sledding and Fun in the Snow
Games and Hikes, Great Food and Snacks

Grab a friend, bring your sleds and winter gear and get ready for a great LCLC experience. The retreat begins with registration at 7:00 p.m. Friday night and ends with closing worship at 10:30 a.m. Sunday. Your families are welcome to join us for Sunday worship.

Cost:

\$120/person (Includes a \$25 non-refundable deposit)
Includes programming, great meals, delicious snacks, and lodging in the Retreat Center. Registration deadline is February 24, 2023.

Sign up at:

Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center
contact@lclcenter.org
www.lclcenter.org
716-386-4125

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who brought food for the pot luck lunch before the congregational meeting and help with preparation and clean up, and for all of those who helped with the meeting itself and First Communion during service! We appreciate Tammy Johannes donating the banners for the kids, they looked wonderful on the altar! Also, thank you to all who worked so hard on their reports for the booklet. (Additional copies are still available in the narthex if you didn't

get one.)

We'd also like to **welcome** Jane Dorr, Flo Goeseke, Dale Kruschke and Ronda Lauridsen to council this year! We thank the outgoing members for their service: Harold Finger, Harold Gardner, MaryLou Groff, Tyler Johnson!

Pastor Rick also wants to thank everyone for all of the Christmas gifts and cards he and his family received, they were very thoughtful!

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday worship will be **February 22nd at 7pm.**

Not able to make it to Ash Wednesday worship in the evening? Stop by for Ashes To Go to start your day! Pastor Rick will be at the church doors from 7-9 am on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 22nd). Simply drive up and Pastor will meet you at your car to offer ashes and a short prayer. It will only take a minute. A great way get you started on your workday and your Lenten journey.

Property Committee

There will be a property meeting on **February 19th** following worship.
Please join us!

Bible Study:

Bible study in the book of Matthew continues on Wednesday evenings at 6:30. There will be no Bible Study on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. During the month of Lent we'll also be adding in some Lenten prayers, too!

Adult Forum:

Our next Adult Forum will be February 5th at 10:45am, all are welcome.
(After that is March 19th.)

Property Committee

There will be a property meeting on **February 19th** following worship. Please join us!

Choir

It's not too late to join! We are in need of more voices...please give some thought to joining us – all are welcome! Choir meets Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm. Please see David for dates for additional Sunday rehearsals.

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 each month, from 8:30-10:30am. The next one is: 2023: February 7th, March 7th
- Set up occurs on the day before each distribution starting at 8 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: Thursdays 9:30 - 2 p.m

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



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

- 3rd - Caroline Kern
4th - Sue Campbell-Kidder
6th - Lisa Mazur
8th - Norm Waff
11th - Jessica Jones
12th - Jessica Brown
Louis Henley
14th - Walter Greiner
Lisa Kaminski
16th - Rebecca Rehwaldt
Carol Ferguson
23rd - Wesley Rehwaldt
24th - Tony Kaminski
25th - Dale Kruschke
27th - Jordan Kendziora
28th - Anthony Pingitore
29th - Harold Gardener

FEBRUARY BAPTISMS:

- 6th - Autumn Waff
13th - Victoria Snyder
Zachary Snyder
14th - Kathy Greiner
20th - Sandra Schoenthal
23rd - Nicole Kaminski