

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

March 5th, 2023

Second Sunday in Lent



During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

- PRELUDE
- WELCOME
- ANNOUNCEMENTS
- PRAYER REQUESTS

*For sections with an *, please stand as you are able*

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

ALL: Amen.

L: Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.
Holy God,

**ALL: we confess to you our faults and failings.
Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;
we spoil rather than steward your creation;
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;
we choose fear over compassion.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
as we seek to follow in your way of life.
Amen.**

L: Hear the good news:
God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.
This promise is for you!
God embraces you with divine mercy,
✝ forgives you in Christ's name,
and revives you in the Spirit's power.

ALL: Amen.

***OPENING HYMN: Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters
Blue Book: #697**

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters



1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.
2 We who bring them long for nur-ture; by your milk may we be fed.
3 Oh, how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-im- ag-ined, all your ways!



Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple; bless as Christ blessed long a-go.
Let us join your feast, par-tak-ing cup of bless-ing, liv-ing bread.
To your name be glo-ry, hon-or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light.
God, re-new us, guide our foot-steps; free from sin and all its snares,
We your peo-ple stand be-fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born.



Fill, a-noint them; send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's de-light.
one with Christ in liv-ing, dy-ing, by your Spir-it, chil-dren, heirs.
By your grace, our lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

Text © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin. The Copyright Company, Nashville, TN.

All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Used by permission.

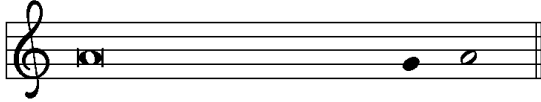
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

*GREETING

L: The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

***KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



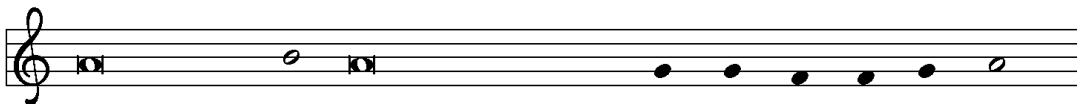
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



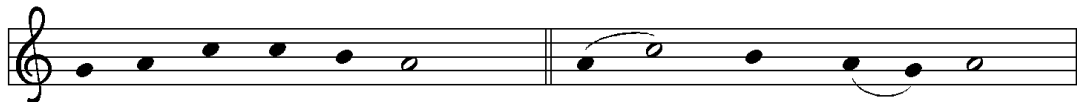
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

L: O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: ¹The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

^{4a}So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

L: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills; my help comes from the LORD. (Ps. 121:1, 2)

L: ¹I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

**ALL: ²My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

L: ³The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

**ALL: ⁴Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

L: ⁵the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

**ALL: ⁶the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

L: ⁷The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.

***GOSPEL: John 3:1-17**

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.

L: ¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”

⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S TIME

SERMON: Pastor Rick Mollenkopf-Grill

***HYMN OF THE DAY: God Loved the World**

God Loved the World

1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
 3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all
 5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly

Son the lost to save, that all who would in
 flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
 trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
 sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
 Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed

him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
 Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
 Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.
 Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

***APOSTLES CREED**

L: Let us confess our faith together using the words of the Apostle's Creed:

ALL:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

L: Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Each prayer ends with these words:

L: Merciful God,

ALL: receive our prayer.

L: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

ALL: Amen.

***THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

L: The peace of the LORD be with you always.

ALL: And also with you.

**You are invited to greet your neighbors with a sign of Christ's peace. Please be sure to have your neighbor's consent before sharing greetings with a handshake or other physical touch. Otherwise, sharing a wave, peace sign or a high-five are great ways to share the peace from a distance.*

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Any financial gifts you wish to give towards the ministry of Trinity may be placed in the offering plate at the rear of the worship space. We give thanks for your sharing of your offerings this and every day.

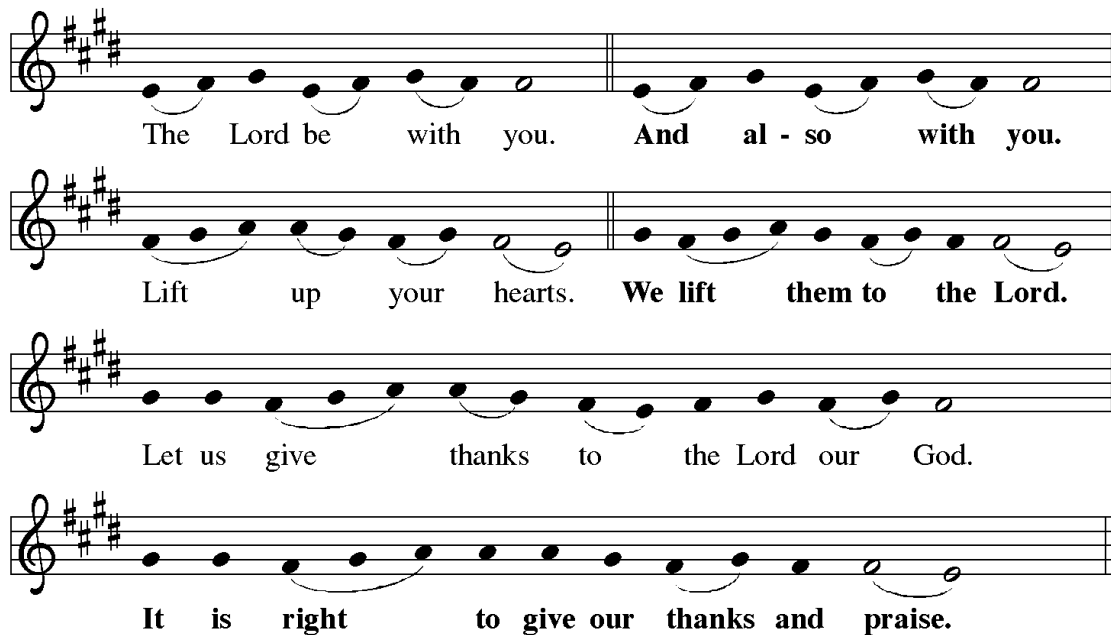
L: God of good gifts,

**ALL: receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.**

**Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.**

Amen.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

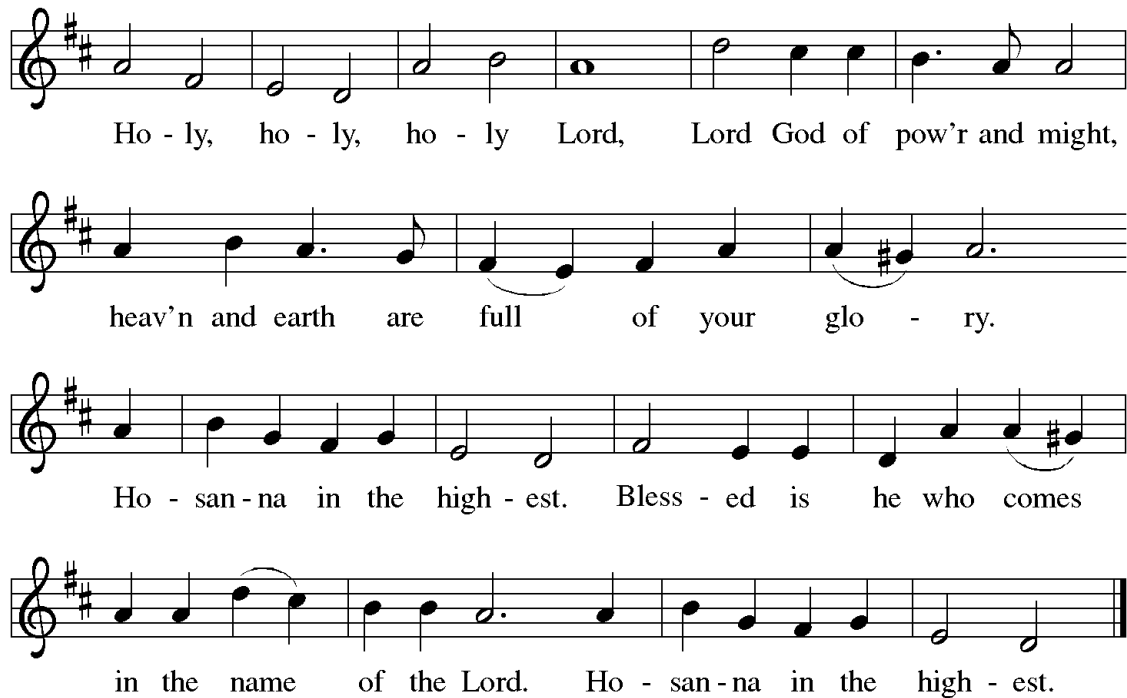
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,

we may come to the fullness of your grace.
 And so, with all the choirs of angels,
 with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

L: In the night in which he was betrayed,
 Our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 Broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.
 Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 And gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
 Amen.**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

L: Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

The minister will give instruction on the distribution of communion.

COMMUNION HYMN: Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN: Just as I Am, Without One Plea

Green Book: #296

To be sung during the distribution of communion - until distribution is complete

Just As I Am, without One Plea

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
 2 Just as I am, and wait - ing not to rid my soul of
 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y_a con - flict,
 4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; sight, rich - es, heal - ing

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
 one dark blot, to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
 man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
 of the mind, yea, all I need in thee to find,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
 wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
 because thy promise I believe,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; thy love unknown
 has broken ev'ry barrier down;
 now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871
 Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

L: The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in God's grace, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

L: Embodied God,

ALL: at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.

**With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
and touch the world with your love.**

Amen.

***BLESSING**

L: God, the giver of love,

✝ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.

ALL: Amen.

***SENDING HYMN: Lift High The Cross
Green Book: #377**

Lift High the Cross

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied tree,
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956
 Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947
 Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

*DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve in love.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Office hours

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

Tracy: Thursdays 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Pastor will be away March 10-12th

Tracy will be in Tuesday March 7th instead of March 9th

Worship liturgy from Sundays and Seasons.com.
Copyright © 2023

Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies
Annual License #SAS001595

Music reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-731772. All rights reserved

*Trinity Lutheran Evangelical Church of South Newstead
4809 S. Newstead Rd.
Akron, NY 14001*

716-542-9828
trinlc@rochester.rr.com
www.trinlc.com

*God's love is powerful...powerful enough to wade through our doubts, fears, and challenges.
And, God's love is for YOU and ALL*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Pray For:

Strength & Healing for:

Michael – health issues

Debbie Smith – broken hip

Carl Patterson – recovery from broken hip @ Beachwood Nursing Home

Bill Beaky – beginning cancer treatment

Roger Hofmeier - healing from a fall

Sharon Dixon – healing from broken leg

Jake Smith – prayers for healing

Scot Baron – prayers for strength

Terry Smitch

Jim Blake

Sherri Popalardaro

The family & friends of:

Mary Frye

Clara Weber

Don Holmes

Judy Bell

Johanna Metz Coleman

Safe travel for:

David Hofmeier

Prayers are a powerful way to lift up people who are sick, injured or suffering for God's healing, and also to give thanks for good news. Trinity sees prayer as an essential ministry, and has several ways we pray for those in need, and for you to take part in those prayers:

- 1. Trinity has a vibrant Prayer Chain ministry. Please contact Sue Kidder, our Prayer Chain coordinator, at 716-542-2095 anytime if you would like your prayer request(s) to be shared with our Prayer Chain group. Sue uses our OneCall phone system to share prayer requests with our group ASAP. Also, let us know if you would like to be a part of the Prayer Chain.*
- 2. Trinity maintains a prayer list in both the Sunday bulletin and the Beacon newsletter. Let us know about names you would like listed in the church office, or via the signup sheet at worship. Names remain listed for about a month unless you let us know otherwise.*

3. *If you wish for names to remain anonymous, you can let us know privately. We also have a moment of silent prayer during worship to lift up any one person or situation too sensitive to share otherwise.*

Counters: March: Paula, April: MaryLou

Pancakes at Newstead Fire Co. - Today

Come for all-you-can-eat pancakes with eggs, sausage, ham & homefries at the Newstead Fire Company today after worship! It runs until **1:00 pm**. Kids 4 & under eat free.

Save the date: March 25th Spaghetti Supper

Mark your calendars for the Spaghetti Supper on **March 25th from 4:30-7:00**. **We'll be going back to in-person dining with a basket raffle!!** The cost will be **\$11 for adults and \$7 for kids** ages 12 and under. Flyers are available in the narthex – help us spread the word to the community!

Supper includes all-you-can-eat Spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, French Bread & a cookie. A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex in early March for donations of ingredients and volunteers. Baskets for the **basket raffle** can be left in the Sunday School room at the end of the hall on the boiler room side any time between now – March 25th. The Crittenden Quilters will also be setting up a table of hand-made goods for sale – you won't want to miss this!

In Search of:

Do you or someone you know have a spare laminator lying around that's not being used? If so, please see Ronda. She is looking for one for Sunday School use. Thanks!

Spring Cleaning

Bring your cleaning implements to help make the church shine this spring! We've scheduled our indoor cleanup day for Saturday, March 18th, and our outdoor cleanup day for Saturday, April 1st. Both dates start at 9 am and go until we're done. Stay tuned as the weather may cause us to swap which day we clean indoors or outdoors.

Bible Study continues through Lent

Join us as we continue our Bible Study on Matthew Wednesday evenings at 6:30. During Lent, we'll begin and end with evening vespers prayers. There will be no Bible Study on April 5th or 12th.

Choir

Choir is meeting Wednesdays at 7:30 all are welcome. Please see David for additional Sunday rehearsal dates. There will be no choir March 8th & 15th.

Little Food Pantry

The Little food Pantry is in constant need of restocking. Dry, non-perishable items like peanut butter and mac 'n cheese will help keep the pantry afloat to help those in need. Please spread the word so we can get the community involved as well. There is a collection box in the narthex, or you can place your items in the Pantry itself.

Sunday School

Join us March 12th & 26th for Sunday School!

Kids – bring your banks back on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday!

Lenten Collection Challenge: R.I.P. Medical Debt

Did you know:

- Over 1 in 3 Americans struggles with the weight of medical debt?
- Over HALF of all Americans struggle to afford paying off medical debt?
- And over 6 in 10 families of color and low-income adults struggle to afford healthcare costs?

Let's do something about this! We are teaming up with our Synod churches to collect funds to eliminate medical debt. How it works:

- You make a donation at church in our collection pots
- We'll send donations to *RIP Medical Debt* (more about them at ripmedicaldebt.org)...
- They pinpoint the debt of those most in need by using poverty and income data
- *RIP Medical Debt* then buys medical debt at a steep discount (\$100 buys about \$10,000 in medical debt!)
- For those whose medical debt gets wiped out, they receive a letter that their debt has been erased, with no tax or financial penalties...just like that! And all of this will be forgiven in New York State!

What a wonderful way this Lent to practice faith and forgiveness, which Jesus talks about a lot! **Our collection challenge runs through Palm Sunday (April 2nd)**. Our Synod's goal is to raise \$10,000, which translates into eliminating \$1 million of medical debt! Even Sunday School is

collecting donations in piggy banks! Be sure to grab a collection bottle or use your own container...any and all donations (paper and coin cash, checks, etc.) are welcome!

**Pastor Rick will match the first \$200 that is donated, and he challenges Trinity to raise at least \$1,500! That would eliminate \$150,000 of medical debt! We can do it!*

Adult Forum

Adult Forum Book Study: Tattoos on the Heart

We have our next book that we are going to dive into in our Adult Forum times this spring: *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion* by Gregory Boyle. More on the book:

For twenty years, Gregory Boyle has run Homeboy Industries, a gang-intervention program located in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles, the gang capital of the world. In *Tattoos on the Heart*, he distills his experience working in the ghetto into a breathtaking series of parables inspired by faith.

Arranged by theme and filled with sparkling humor and glowing generosity, these essays offer a stirring look at how full our lives could be if we could find the joy in loving others and in being loved unconditionally. From giant, tattooed Cesar, shopping at JCPenney fresh out of prison, we learn how to feel worthy of God's love. From ten-year-old Lula we learn the importance of being known and acknowledged. From Pedro we understand the kind of patience necessary to rescue someone from the darkness. In each chapter we benefit from Boyle's gentle, hard-earned wisdom.

These essays about universal kinship and redemption are moving examples of the power of unconditional love and the importance of fighting despair. Gorgeous and uplifting, *Tattoos on the Heart* reminds us that no life is less valuable than another.

Options to get your copy of *Tattoos on the Heart*:

- Pastor Rick has copies available for purchase for \$10 each.
- The Erie County Public Library has copies available for loan.
- You can also purchase your own copy elsewhere.

We'll dive into our book at these upcoming Adult Forum times following Sunday worship:

10:45 am on March 19th

10:45 am on April 16th

10:45 am on April 30th

Hope Haven

Hope Haven is a non-profit inpatient chemical dependency rehabilitation program that provides an opportunity for WNY adults to overcome alcohol and substance abuse. They are in need of donations of the following items:

Magazines

Journals or composition notebooks

playing cards

yarn

crochet needles

puzzle books

adult coloring books

colored pencils

exercise equipment

To donate any of the following items, please contact Shannon Kern at 716-462-1212.

Holy Week Services

Join us as we complete the walk towards the cross on Holy Week. Our services are:

-Maundy Thursday: April 6th at 7 pm

-Good Friday tenebrae (a service of light to darkness): April 7th at 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday at Trinity

We celebrate Easter at Trinity on Sunday, April 9th:

-Easter breakfast at 8 am...this year will be a potluck breakfast, details TBA

-Easter worship is at 9:30 am

-Following worship will be the Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt

First Bible

One of the promises we make for children at baptism is to "place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer."

To fulfill this promise, Trinity is starting a First Bible program where we will provide an age-appropriate study Bible for children currently in their third grade year. (We'll also include older children in this first year of the program up to 6th grade.) And we'll hold a workshop for parents on ways you can use this Bible with your family.

First Bible Sunday will be Sunday, May 18th, with the workshop during Sunday School on May 7th. There is no cost to First Bible families. For everyone else, if you would like to sponsor a Bible for a child, the cost is \$30 for each Bible. Please contact Pastor Rick by Easter Sunday if you are interested in this new program for your family or are interested in sponsorships.

Summer Worship and Picnic: Mark your Calendars

Trinity is going back to Akron Falls Park for worship and fun and food! We'll have our Summer Worship and Picnic at the Brooklyn St. shelter in Akron Falls Park at 10:30 am on Sunday, July 16th!