

February 2026

News From The Pews



Pastor's Page

Lent begins this month with Ash Wednesday. The theme for Lent, as stated in the book of Joel, could be summed up as “Return to the Lord.” The point is that we need to return to the Lord, because sin has separated us from Him. And that is not a good thing.

Lent is not a pleasant time in the church calendar, but is a very important time nevertheless. We’ve gone through Advent, which was a time of anticipation of the coming of Jesus. Then there was Christmas, when Jesus actually came. That was followed by Epiphany, which revealed to us that Jesus, who came at Christmas, was in fact God in flesh.

So now that we know who Jesus is, Lent shows us our need of Him. Being separated from God by sin had devastating consequences. God is the only source of life, of love, and of joy. So sin left us by nature oriented towards death, hate, and pain. Lent calls us to realize the reality of our sinfulness, and its horrific implications, and thus seeing our need to return to the Lord.

But the million dollar question is: how can I return to the Lord? This is the problem, because, on your own, you not only can’t return to the Lord, you won’t want to. This shows us the importance of Christ the Savior. You return to the Lord by God’s power in repentance, on the basis of Christ’s death and resurrection. Your sin is a major problem, but Jesus is the answer. After spending 40 days in Lent, being reminded of your sinfulness and its seriousness, you are told on Holy Week of your salvation – Jesus dying and rising for you.

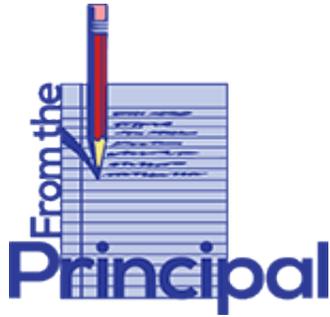
So this Lent, pray for the Holy Spirit to lead you into meaningful self-reflection. Pray for the power to see your sin, repent, and believe in the promise of God to save you. Lent is about reality – the reality of your sinfulness, and the reality of God’s love for you in Christ Jesus! Have a blessed February, and see you in church!

In Christ,

Rev. Wagner



SCHOOL NEWS



- Join us in our Dining for Dollars fund-raising event on Wednesday, January 28. For January, we are partnering with Noodles and Company 18 W64 22 St. in Oakbrook Terrace (near Home Depot). The fundraiser hours are from 4-8 pm. The coupon code is: GIVING25.
- Our students will again be singing in church on Sunday, February 8.

January 2026

Students at Trinity just started the third quarter of the school year. They are now a little more than half-way through their current grade, and we still have a lot happening.

- Students just finished their roller skating unit in PE. Skates have been returned and we are looking forward to skating again next year.
- Teachers are conducting MAP tests in their classrooms. MAP is a measure of academic progress. These tests are similar to the old achievements tests.
- Trinity students will worship at our weekly chapel until Ash Wednesday. Starting February 18, students will attend the 11:00 am Lenten services. Chapel worship begins each Wednesday at 8:30 AM. Join us for worship in person or via livestream. Offerings for January and February are designated for Redeeming Life ministries.

James C. Baerenklau

Principal

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Trinity Lutheran Women in Mission - Mary Martha Guild

All women and girls are invited to join Mary Martha on **Thursday, February 5, at 6:30 p.m.** in the parish hall. We will be sharing Christ's love to Trinity's home-bound by preparing special greetings to send to them. As always, you may bring a sweet or salty snack to share.



Come Join the Fellowship and Fun

Mary Martha, Trinity's women's service ministry of faith, fun, and fellowship is open to all women and girls, confirmation age on up. Mary Martha meets monthly – usually on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in Trinity's parish hall during the school year unless noted otherwise.

Friends are always welcome.

Trinity's Mary Martha is a part of Lutheran Women in Mission (also known as LWML), which is the national women's organization to which every Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod woman is automatically a member. Throughout the year, Trinity's women have opportunities to participate in local, regional, and national events as part of Lutheran Women in Mission. If you have questions, text or call **Arlene Solyom at: 630.715.7764.**

Feed The Hungry

There are people who don't know where their next meal is coming from. We need to help. Jesus said.....

I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.
Matthew 25:35, NRSV



Just think, if everyone brought 1 food item a week it would always be ready to share. God provides the means to provide food for those who are not able to do so through their own means. By bringing non-perishables (rice, pasta, mac-n-cheese...) canned goods, breakfast cereals, granola bars etc. along with you when you come to worship services, you are helping to provide nourishment and kindness to those in need. "Eating is not an optional 'habit', it's a necessity."

To contact Ron or Dawn Tyler or if you have questions, please call the church office..

Trinity Lutheran Church and School contributes to the local food pantries: St. Vincent de Paul through St. Pius X Catholic Church and Yorktownship. Questions?

Contact Trinity's office at 630.629.8765 or secretary@trinitylombard.org.



NEWS FROM SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday Morning Bible Class and Sunday School Resumed January 5

After a brief Christmas hiatus, Trinity's Sunday Morning Bible Class and Sunday School resumed on January 5. The classes meet concurrently following post-church fellowship on Sunday mornings, with Pastor-led Bible study in the sanctuary and children's Bible lessons and activities in the parish hall. As we enter the new year, resolve to give your family the gift of weekly time in God's Word.

Children in Church

The family is a primary building block for faith and worshiping together in church is a large part of early faith development. If you are bringing younger children to church, please be aware of resources available at the back of the sanctuary. We have "busy bags" for toddlers with church "look books" or other materials (please return these to the hanging stand after church). You'll also find crayons, Bible coloring books, children's bulletins (two versions, for ages 3+ and 7+), and quarterly My Devotions (for young Christians). This is also where you will find copies of Trinity Lutheran School's monthly student produced newsletter. Trinity Lutheran Church, children are welcomed and encouraged to participate fully in the church's worship, as we believe children are an important part of the church

LENTEN WORSHIP

2-18 (Ash Wednesday) service at 11am and 6pm both in the Sanctuary.

Lenten services start the following Wednesday with services at 11am and 6pm both in the Sanctuary. These services will be on 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18 and 3/25.

Plan on worshipping with us as we follow the road to the cross.

OPPORTUNITY TO WORSHIP AND STUDY

Scheduled Services 9 a.m.

Sundays In-person and Livestreamed

MONDAY NIGHT weekly services are at 6pm.

Enjoy Coffee & fellowship after church services on Sundays.

SUNDAY MORNING Bible Class has resumed, following fellowship.

SUNDAY SCHOOL, following the service & Fellowship time

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS is once again meeting, with 9:15 coffee, Study to begin at 9:30

WEDNESDAY EVENING ONLINE LIVE BIBLE STUDY 6PM

live at <https://www.trinitylombard.org>

TRINITY'S OFFICE HOURS: 8 am to 3:30 pm. Questions? Call **630.629.8765** or

Email: secretary@trinitylombard.org

Facebook: Additionally: keep up with Trinity news from church and school on Facebook @TrinityLombard and Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/trinitylutheranlombard/>.

Find the 9 a.m. orders of worship, at

<https://www.trinitylombard.org/sermons>.

Services and Bible classes air live on Facebook @TrinityLombard.com

(<https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLombard/>)



Direct Your Thrivent Choice Dollars

Eligible Thrivent Financial members earn Choice Dollars which may be directed to Trinity Lutheran Church and/or Trinity Lutheran School. These must be directed each year prior to March 31. Don't miss this easy opportunity to benefit Trinity. To learn more or direct your Choice Dollars, go online to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800.847.4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.



BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Financial Wisdom

The first Sunday this month is February 1, the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany. The epistle reading is from 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, about Christ the Wisdom and Power of God. Verse 20 from this Scripture asks, "Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?"

God's ways are certainly not the world's ways, including the way God tells us to manage the resources He's given to us. The world says, "hold on, hold back, and gather up." In Matthew 6:19-20, Jesus tells us to

store up treasure in heaven where moth and rust do not destroy and where no thief breaks in to steal.

According to the December 2025 Mind over Money survey by Capital One and The Decision Lab, 77 percent of Americans report feeling anxious about their financial situation.

One Trinity member reports, "As a young single parent I struggled mightily to support my family, and yet through that time, we leaned on the promises of God, and He pulled us through the lean years. Are we wealthy now? No, but we do not worry about money or fear for our basic needs. The Lord provides. We know that firsthand."

Proverbs 3:5 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding."

Which do you believe is the better path? To spend your time worrying about finances? Or to take God at His word?

If you need encouragement today, pick up God's Word and read Matthew 6:25-34. Lay your anxious thoughts at the foot of the cross, Jesus can bear your burden if you will only trust in Him to supply all your needs.





Wise Words from an Honored President

On February 16, America will mark Presidents' Day. As we celebrate our nation's 250th year, we can reflect on wise words from the 16th President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, one of the great leaders we honor each February:

- "I can see how it might be possible for a man to look down upon the earth and be an atheist, but I cannot conceive how a man could look up into the heavens and say there is no God."
- "In regards to this great Book [the Bible], I have but to say it is the best gift God has given to man. All the good the Savior gave to the world was communicated through this Book. But for it we could not know right from wrong. All things most desirable for man's welfare, here and hereafter, are found portrayed in it."
- "My concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right."

Love for a Broken Heart

Are you grieving the loss of a child through abortion? Are you struggling with guilt, sorrow, or anger? Do you know that God wants to heal you and bind up your sorrows? He can free you from the hurt and pain. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a

future." (Jeremiah 29:11) There IS hope for your future – a Word of Hope that can begin to heal your broken heart. If you or someone you know is hurting because of an abortion, call Word of Hope at 888.217.8679 or email info@word-of-hope.org. It's caring and completely confidential.



Trinity News Corner –

Coming soon!

Submit your current news that you would like to share with the congregation. It can be anything from engagement, baby news, new job, special birthdays or anniversaries. Let us celebrate with you in your joy.

All news articles for the next month's newsletter may be submitted if possible by the 20th of the month in order to get proofread and approved by Pastor by the 1st of the month.

Thank you. Send via text or email to:

s.keenan@sbcglobal.net

Questions ... call or text - Editor, Chris Keenan (630) 330-5900 at any time.