

March 2026

News From **The Pews**



Pastor's Page

Lent has begun last 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 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, 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.

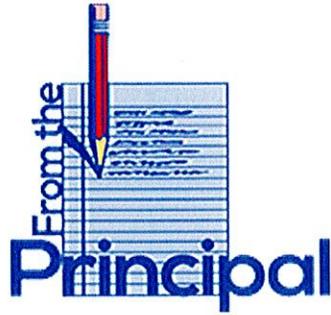
So this Lent, pray for the Holy Spirit to lead you into meaningful self-reflection. Pray for the power to see your sin, repent, and believe in the promise of God to save you. Lent is about reality – the reality of your sinfulness, and the reality of God’s love for you in Christ Jesus! Have a blessed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

In Christ,

Rev. Wagner



SCHOOL NEWS



The third quarter ends on March 20!

Students will be singing in church on March 22. Be sure to attend, show your support and encourage them.

Time to eat! See the flyer for the Panda Express fundraiser on March 4th! Please try to participate as 20% of your sale comes back to Trinity.

March 2026

Celebrate Lutheran Schools Week!

With the beginning of March, Trinity will be celebrating Lutheran Schools' Week. Something exciting is planned each day for students:

- Monday is pajama day and older students will read to younger students.
- Tuesday is spirit wear and movie day.
- Wednesday is fancy dress day and students will attend worship.
- Thursday is hat and funky hair day. Teachers will be serving breakfasts to their classes.
- Friday is early dismissal for Grandparents' Day. We have special worship, snacks, crafts, and a group reading.

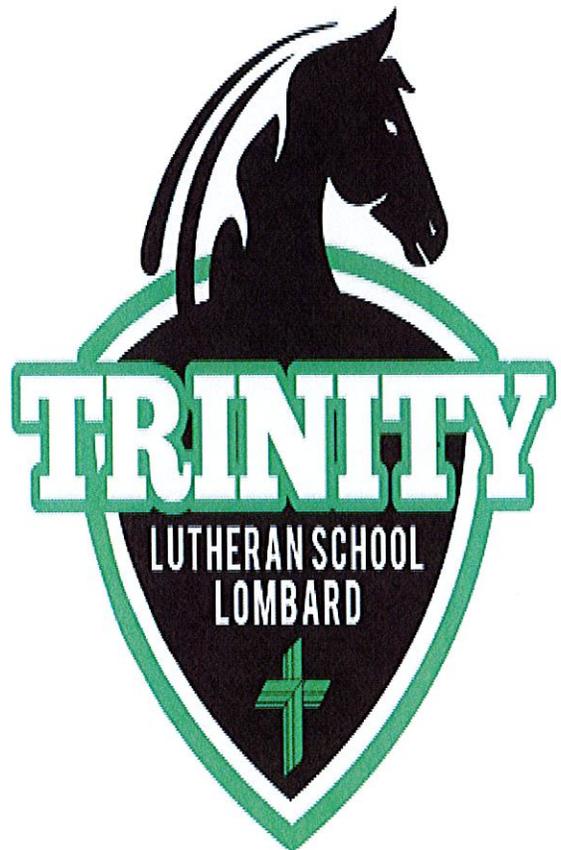
James C. Baerenklau

Principal

Trinity Lutheran School

Lombard, IL 60148

630.627.5601 ext. 205



Trinity Lutheran Women in Mission - Mary Martha Guild

All women and girls are invited to join Mary Martha in the parish hall this month on March 5th.

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.**

NEWS FROM SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday Morning Bible Class and Sunday School

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 season of Lent, resolve to give your family the gift of weekly time in God's Word.

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.



Children in Church

The family is a primary building block for faith and worshipping 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

Lenten services have started on Wednesday's with services at 11am and 6pm both in the Sanctuary. These services will be on 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.

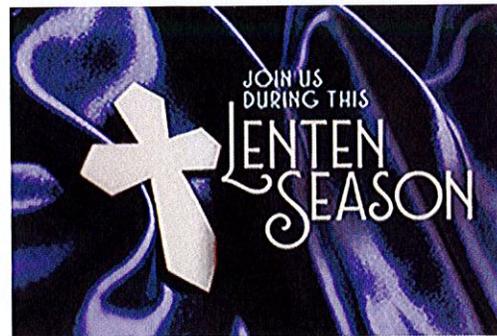
SUNDAY SCHOOL, following the service & Fellowship time

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

WEDNESDAY EVENING ONLINE LIVE BIBLE STUDY is on hiatus during Lent – services will be live streamed <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: keep up with Trinity news from church and school on ~ Facebook [@TrinityLombard](https://www.facebook.com/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) (<https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLombard/>)



Did you see...?

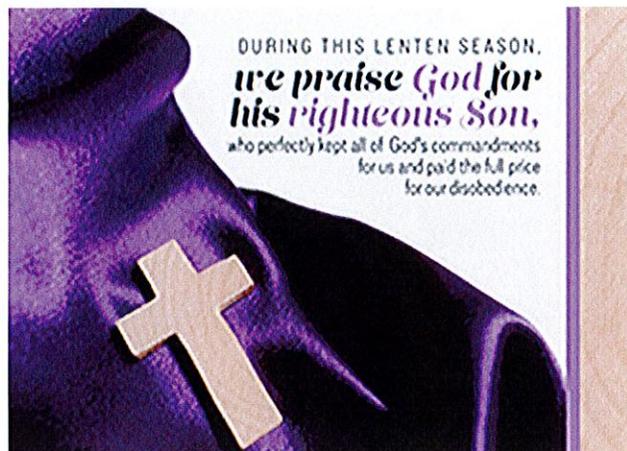
If you were in church on Ash Wednesday, you may have noticed new seasonal banners. The new banners were part of a set purchased to fill in some of the church year festivals which Trinity did not previously have. This was made possible through the generous donations of those who contributed to the purchase via Trinity's Wish List Giving Tree. Thank you also to Ron Niehaus and Ron Tyler for crafting and assembling the hanging rods. And thank you to Trinity's Altar Guild for the ongoing care and maintenance of our paraments for the altar, pulpit, and lectern.

From the Board of Stewardship

LENT: A Time for Giving Up - or Giving Back?

Giving up things for Lent is a long-standing tradition for many. When asked why, some will respond that we do so in penitence as a way of honoring Christ's sacrifice for us. While there is certainly nothing inherently wrong in this practice, and a focus on moderation is rarely bad for us, the idea of us "doing for Christ" can sometimes foster an idea that our good works - even our deliberate self-deprivation - is somehow contributory to our sanctification. Perhaps our intentions for a dedicated Lenten focus might be better served through spending more time in God's Word, making more of an effort to serve one another, or even increasing our giving to further His kingdom - willingly and sacrificially. What if we GAVE SOMETHING BACK to God rather than GAVE UP SOMETHING for Him?

"...the righteous gives and does not hold back." (from Proverbs 21:26)



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.

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.

Trinity News Corner –

Feeling Unforgiven?

Lent is a penitential season in the church and can be painful if you carry the burden of sin that you feel is unforgiven. If you have feelings of depression, guilt, grief, anger or regret, and there's an abortion in your past, Word of Hope can help. Word of Hope offers confidential counseling, support, resources and referrals for anyone dealing with the after-effects of an abortion. If you or someone you know is suffering from grief over an abortion, call 888.217.8679 or email info@word-of-hope.org. It's caring and completely confidential.

Coming soon!

Please keep us informed, we want to hear and share your happiness. 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, anniversaries or a new dog. 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.



TLSlombard.org



PANDA EXPRESS Fundraiser for
Trinity Lutheran School of Lombard
(a preschool—8th grade Lutheran School)
20% of event sales will be donated

Wednesday, March 4, 2026
10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Panda Express located at:

359 E Roosevelt Road - Lombard IL 60148 - 331.808.2208



Online

Ways to Order:



In-Person

PandaExpress.com or the App.
Enter 3856163 in the fundraiser code box

Bring paper flyer or show it on
your smartphone

Participating fundraiser guests are required to present a valid fundraiser flyer (paper copy or digital image) with each order to receive credit towards the fundraiser. Flyers may not be distributed inside or within the vicinity of the restaurant including, without limitation to, the restaurant parking lot before or during the fundraiser. Panda Restaurant Group, Inc. ("PRG") reserves the right to cancel any and all fundraiser events, if the Neighborhood Fundraiser Terms and Conditions are not followed. If the organization is not in good standing with the IRS, Franchise Tax Board, or the State of California (for California organizations only), then donations may not be made to the organization. You must present your unique code or a copy of this flyer (digital copies are accepted) at the designated date, time, and your Panda Express location at check-out. PRG will donate 20% of all pre-tax purchases made, provided that the organization raises a minimum of \$100 in total event sales pre-tax. PRG does not charge the organization fees related to the event. Purchase(s) of gift cards do not count towards the fundraiser, but purchases made with gift cards will count. No portion of purchase is tax deductible. The donation from PRG to the organization is tax deductible. The organization receiving the donation must be a tax exempt organization. PRG will issue the donation check and provide an accounting statement to the organization within 45 days of the completion of the event. Participants in the fundraiser may request the total dollar amount donated to the organization by emailing communityprograms@pandarg.com or by submitting the question at <https://community.pandaexpress.com/fac>



Find a local hiring event or apply online at [PandaCareers.com](https://pandacareers.com)