



Trinity Lutheran Church
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TRINITY CONNECTION

MARCH 1, 2024

Dear friends in Christ,

This Sunday we will hear the story of Jesus cleansing the temple from the gospel of John. It is an intense story. Jesus makes a whip out of cords and dramatically drives the money changers and stall vendors out of the temple Jerusalem. He overturns their tables and dumps their cash registers on the ground. As I've been preparing to preach on this text, I noticed that several of the commentators struggle with the violence of the situation. To be honest, I've been pondering that quite a bit as well.

Though sometimes overused, the word "trigger" has become common in conversations about violence. People who have experienced violence can have dramatic physical and emotional responses when they witness depictions of violent situations. I have a friend who is a decorated veteran who was wounded in combat while serving in Iraq. He hibernates in his basement on July 4th because of the way the sudden firework noises "trigger" his combat experiences.

This week I've found a new way to wrap my head around this story. Instead of focusing on the trigger of violence at the beginning, I've been paying attention to the glimmer of hope at end of the story. Here is the ending of the episode from John 2: 19

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" 21But he was speaking of the temple of his body.

Jesus is hinting at his resurrection even though the disciples won't remember his words until years later. The gospel of John places the cleansing of the temple at the beginning of Jesus' three-year ministry. Instead of a "trigger," the cleansing in hindsight becomes a "glimmer."

On Facebook yesterday, a friend posted the difference between a trigger and a glimmer.

Recently, I learned about a term called a "glimmer," which is the opposite of a trigger. Glimmers are any moments in your day that bring you joy, happiness, peace, gratitude, or love, making you feel good. The more you look out for them, the more you'll notice, and the fewer triggers you'll encounter. We tend to see what we actively seek. Quoted from Empaths, Old Souls, and Introverts Facebook page.

Sometimes the glimmer of hope is not the first thing we notice, but in the cleansing of the temple the hope of new life and resurrection are present. It took awhile for the disciples to see it, but God gave them a way to ground the memory in hope. May we all be given the grace to notice the glimmers around us today.

Peace and best wishes,
Pastor Tom Opoien

Holden Evening / Holy Week / Easter Sunday Services

Our theme throughout Wednesday evening Lenten services is “Holy Lament” and will look at how lament, both individual and communal, is a part of our life of faith. Each week we will look at scripture and an accompanying song and how it relates to the laments in our lives.

Family meal begins at 5:15 pm. You do not have to cook at all on Wednesday nights! Come enjoy a warm meal served until 6:15 pm.

Family worship begins at 6:30 pm. March 6 | March 13 | March 20
We will be using the beautiful and popular Holden Evening Prayer.

Confirmation in Lent: Confirmation in Lent takes on a different format. Each confirmation student and their mentor will meet for the meal and discuss questions pertaining to the evening’s sermon. Then they will worship together at 6:30 pm. Afterwards, they are free to go home.

Palm Sunday
Sunday, March 24 at
8:00 or 10:30 am

Maunday Thursday
Thursday, March 28
6:30 pm

Good Friday
Friday, March 29
6:30 pm

Easter Worship Services
Sunday, March 31
7:30 am, 9:00 am and 10:30 am



Quilting Group

Wednesday, March 6
9:00 am
in the Fellowship Hall

Join us as we continue to work on putting together more quilts together. No sewing or quilting experience is necessary. All are welcome.

New Member Orientation

Wednesday, March 6
7:15—8:15 pm
in the Connection Room

Not a member? Interested in becoming a member? Join us for lunch and learn more about what Trinity is all about! **Please RSVP by calling the church office. Walk ins are welcome as well.**

Welcoming of new members will be held on Sunday, March 10 at 8:00 or 10:30 am or Wednesday, March 13 at 6:30 pm.

Milestone Ministry

6th Grade Milestone—Books of the Bible
Celebration: Sunday, March 10 at 8:00 or 10:30 am
or Wednesday, March 13 at 6:30 pm

Join Deacon Christie and learn the Books of the Bible. These sessions will make

Busy Blessings

Sunday, March 10
9:15 am
in the Fellowship Hall

"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

For parents of birth to 3 year olds You are invited to join us for a new monthly ministry, called **Busy Blessings**. Our first gathering of Busy Blessings will be Sunday, March 10 at 9:15 am. Our 45 min session will include a story, a small craft, a snack, music and puppets.

Parents are required to stay with your child.

There is a sign up genius to help us better plan the snack. But if you are able to come, and you didn't sign up, still join us. All are welcome. We look forward to seeing you.

Peace, Deacon Christie, Jessi Curry, Lauren Jensen, Alyssa Gors, Emily Seeman and Jackie Graham

If you have questions, contact Deacon Christie by calling 605-498-2343.



Pickleball Day with Trinity

Sunday, March 10
1:00 - 3:00 pm
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
5500 East 57th Street, Sioux Falls, SD
Cost: \$5 per player (include paddle and ball)

Join us for Trinity's Pickleball Day at Gloria Dei! This session will include a lesson and practice for beginning players for the entire family. Bring your friends and family and signup today, we are limiting this to 24 participants! Please drop off your \$5 per player payment to the church office, price includes the paddle and ball. The doors will open 15 minutes prior to the event, please use west entrance. We ask that you wear appropriate footwear. No food is allowed in the gym, only water is allowed. Call the church office to signup!

"A New Norm" Presented by Tom Roberts

Wednesday, March 13
7:15 pm
in the Fellowship Hall

"A New Norm" presented by Tom Roberts is an engaging, interactive presentation that reflects the feelings of those who struggle with anxiety, depression, grief, anger, doubt, shame, fear and more, yet provides encouragement that difficulties such as these can be overcome. It expresses how routine thoughts of negativity can sometimes cloud our reality making it difficult to enjoy life, to appreciate what is truly good, to have positive relationships, or to develop to one's full potential.

Today, our youth carry the weight of the word on their shoulders. This presentation will include storytelling, humor, and interactive activities that help them learn empathy, awareness, perception, hope, positive thinking, and a willingness to try.

Middle school and high school youth and parents are invited to attend this important message about mental health that affects each and every one of us.!



Volunteers Needed: Food To You Mobile Food Pantry

Thursday, March 14
4:15 - 7:30 pm or 5:10 - 7:30 pm
Messiah New Hope Lutheran Church
5001 E Madison St, Sioux Falls

Grab your friends and join us as for at the Food To You - the Mobile Food Pantry! This organization is our March Globe Offering recipient and is part of the Charis Ministry Partners. We hope you are able to join us for this great service project opportunity! Orientation and training will be provided, no experience is necessary!

Two types of volunteers are needed:
Early Bird Volunteers: You will sort and distribute food.
Other Volunteers: You will distribute food.

Call the church office to signup!



Trinity Lutheran Preschool registration now open!

3 & 4 year olds
Tuesday/Thursday
8:30 - 11:00 am

4 & 5 year olds (Pre-K)
Monday/Wednesday/Friday
8:30 - 11:30 am

Trinity Lutheran Preschool 2024-2025 registration is now available. We are a Christ-centered preschool with play based learning program. Our themed lessons and virtue focus will enrich the whole child by incorporating all learning styles and senses. Learning outcomes will enhance a child's spiritual, social-emotional, physical and intellectual development.

Call the church office for more information or to register.

March Food Pantry Donation: Pork and Beans

With the raising cost of food the Food Pantry has seen an increase in clients. Feel free to pick up an extra item or two when shopping to help those in need! In the month of March we will be collecting pork and beans. Donations can be dropped off in the Gathering Space. If you have questions or would like to make a monetary donation, please contact the church office or call Ruth at 605-321-7325.

High School Youth Attending National Youth Gathering

The high school youth would like to thank the congregation for all of the generosity as they continue to fundraiser to help pay for their trip to New Orleans in July. There are 18 youth and 3 adults who will be taking part in the trip.



2024 Executive Committee and Church Council



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Maria Campbell



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Amanda McKnelly



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Board of Stewardship
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**Not
Pictured**

Youth Representative
Kendra Oberle