

## A Fast for Lent

*Pastor Nathan Pipho*



On Ash Wednesday (March 1) we begin another journey through Lent. In our Ash Wednesday liturgies at Noon and 7 p.m., we will once again hear the call to repentance and will be invited to the Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

In the spirit of fasting, I often hear people say they are “giving something up for Lent.” Some fast from their favorite foods – chocolate, cheese, or sweets. Others fast from alcohol. While I’ve often fasted from certain foods, I’ve actually found it more beneficial to expand the concept of fasting to include turning off the radio, television, computer, iPad, and to set down my smart phone after a designated time at night and to leave them off until a designated time the next morning. Intentional and lengthy periods of silence to unplug and disconnect are helpful ways for me to tune out the noise of the world, and tune into God’s Word in a special way.

Here is another fast I propose. Together, let us help each other fast from the thoughts and attitudes that lead us to say: “Give it back. It’s mine!”

In my sermon on February 19, I shared that I often hear those words from my niece and nephew when one of them wants the toy the other one is playing with. Despite the piles of toys all around them, they suddenly want the one toy their sibling is playing with and so it’s snatched away from their sibling. Then, through tears and a big frown come the words: “Give it back! It’s mine!”

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## Trinity Worship Services on TV and the Internet

**Internet Webcasts-** [www.trinityworc.org](http://www.trinityworc.org) -or- [www.vimeo.com/trinityworcester](http://www.vimeo.com/trinityworcester)

**TV- Same Day Broadcasts:** **Shrewsbury-** Channel 28, Sunday 8 p.m., Monday 12:30 a.m.

**TV- Delayed Broadcasts:** **Worcester-** Charter TV-193, Sunday 4 p.m.; Channel 194, Sunday 11 a.m.; **Auburn-** Tuesday 11 p.m., Thursday 10 p.m., Sunday Noon & 11:30 p.m.; **Holden-** Sunday 8:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Thursday 7 p.m.; **Hudson-** Sunday 11 a.m. & 5:30 p.m., Wednesday 3 p.m.; **Leicester-** Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 8 a.m., Sunday 10 a.m.; **Oxford-** Sunday 1:15 a.m. & 9:15 a.m.; **Spencer-** Saturday & Sunday 8:30 a.m.; **Sterling/Lancaster-** Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m.; **Sutton-** Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday 9 a.m.

I believe those words can be found in most disagreements we have as humans. Whether in our families, our church, or our country, those words “Give it back! It’s mine!” come from a sense of ownership and possession by which we defend what we think is ours against claims of another.

Defining and defending that which is ours is not, however, the call of faith. In the Sunday readings of the past couple months the prophets, the Apostle Paul in his letter to the church in Corinth, and Jesus in his Sermon on the Mount, have challenged us to let go, to turn towards the needs of others, and to give ourselves away for the life of the most needy around us.

“Is not this the fast I choose,” asks God through the prophet Isaiah: “to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?” (Isaiah 58:6). As if that wasn’t enough, Isaiah continued: “Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?” (Isaiah 58:7).

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave an illustration of what that fast looks like: “If anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to anyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.” (Matthew 5:40-42).

In the scriptures, God invites us to a radical orientation towards others. In Jesus, God invites us to a new relationship with those in which sin has broken relationship.

Whatever specific fast you choose for the Lenten season, may it turn you in new ways to Christ who is our life, our hope, and our salvation. A fast is not a holy hoop to jump through. Instead, it is an invitation to deny the ways we serve ourselves in order to serve the community in new ways. Along with the Lenten disciplines of prayer and almsgiving, it is a gift offered for our renewal and restoration in the faith. The disciplines reconnect us to God’s amazing grace offered to us in community with all the saints gathered around the throne of Jesus.

*Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Nathan*

Our school enrollment is growing, and we are very excited to add more and more students to The T.E.C. School’s community in the fall. We are enrolling now for our summer programs in June and August.

Please stop by, or email Director Rupali Sharma at [rsharma@theTECschools.com](mailto:rsharma@theTECschools.com), for details. Our summer programs run weekly from June 12 - 30, August 14 - September 1.

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|----------------------------|--|
| Week 1: June 12 - 16       | <i>Lego Robotics Club!</i>   |
| Week 2: June 19 - 23       | <i>Young Engineers: Racecars, Rockets, and More!</i>                               |
| Week 3: June 26 - 30       | <i>3D Modeling and 3D Printing Design OR<br/>A Mapping Adventure</i>               |
| Week 4: August 14 - 18     | <i>STEM Creations</i>  |
| Week 5: August 21 - 25     | <i>Create a Mask a Day!</i>  |
| Week 6: August 28 - Sept 1 | <i>Science Around Us OR Natural Habitats<br/>Reimagined Through STEAM Punk Art</i> |



## TLC Christian Preschool

Our New Outreach Opportunity ~ As you know, each month the children participate in a variety of outreach projects. This month we will be sponsoring a little girl in Guatemala at the IMA School. The cost is \$750 for her to attend one school year. This includes an education, uniforms, warm meals, and medical care. Some of you may remember my two trips to IMA to volunteer in the classroom and help with administration needs. I had the opportunity to see first-hand the impact this opportunity makes in the life of a little girl and her family. If you would like to sponsor a little girl of your own, please go to the following link <http://www.imausa.org> and click "sponsorship." If you would like to participate in our efforts to raise the money for our sponsored child, please put the amount you would like to donate in our tuition box located outside the director's office. IMA thanks you and I thank you.



Mary Creager with two former IMA students.



A local home



Mary Creager and Pam Capone with a few of the students during recess.

Excerpt from <http://www.imausa.org>: According to the World Bank, Guatemala has one of the most unequal income distributions in the hemisphere. As a result, about 51% of the population lives on less than \$2 a day and 15% on less than \$1 a day. Guatemala's social development indicators, such as infant mortality, chronic child malnutrition, and illiteracy, are among the worst in the hemisphere. The situation is such that USAID now defines Guatemala a Tier 1 priority for grant assistance. This is particularly hard on women and girls. Denied education and options, girls as young as 8 years old are sold into prostitution. Some turn to dealing drugs or stealing to feed themselves and their families.

**Specific Issues for Women and Girls:** As reported by Guatemalan Human Rights Commission/USA gender differences in education and literacy pose a big problem. Girls tend to leave pencils and books for weaving, tending animals, and preparation of food. Sexism and poverty are major factors in the gender gap. And educating girls is proven to be one of the most effective ways to fight poverty.

Although the recent census shows improvement in female enrollment, **it is still the lowest in all of Latin America.**

## CONGREGATION COUNCIL UPDATE

*Jessica Sutherland, President*

The Council met on February 16 after rescheduling because of the snowstorm on February 13. Much of the meeting was devoted to getting organized for the upcoming Council term. We welcomed new Councilors Andrew Gingras, Joel Schur, and Sulma Rupert-Silva and returning Councilors Susan Brown and Thom Tarquinio. All of these individuals were elected to the Council at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on January 29. We also elected our 2017 officers. Susan Brown, Jake Schur, and I were elected as Secretary, Vice-President, and President, respectively. Dale Mattice has faithfully served as Secretary for two terms and we are very grateful for her service. The Treasurer position is currently open and we have not yet been successful in appointing someone to this post. The Council decided to write and publish a job description in the bulletin and an upcoming edition of the Trinity News. If you are interested in learning more about this position, please contact me or one of the pastors. During the Treasurer vacancy, we are grateful to members of the Finance Committee (especially Scott Baeder and Rich Grusell) for overseeing Trinity's finances and presenting a complete report to the Council on a monthly basis.

The Council received the reports of the pastors, cantor, and the various committees and ministry teams. An upcoming project, recommended by the Property Committee, is to relocate the TLC Christian Preschool playground before it is resurfaced. The current playground did not pass inspection last year because it needs to be resurfaced. This matter will be discussed further at an upcoming Congregational Meeting (to be scheduled). The Property Committee has also been making progress in selecting new replacement windows for the Education Wing (the old windows contain lead paint, do not work well, and are not energy-efficient). They will have a full proposal for the Council's consideration soon.

Rich Grusell, reported that progress is being made on the loan from the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. Rich, and other members of the Finance and Executive Committees, have been working diligently to supply the necessary paperwork for completing the loan application. Trinity is applying for a loan of \$700,000 to pay for the remainder of the Restoring+Renewing+Rejoicing construction project (namely the heating and fire alarm systems).

Trinity's ministries continue to go "full tilt". Saturday morning breakfast and basketball have been well-attended. We are also grateful to those who knit, crochet, or make quilts as part of the charitable yarns project. Trinity's youth collected \$600 in tips at the recent Valentine's Day dinner concert for their upcoming mission trip – great job, everyone! During Lent, we will be

raising funds for a meal packing event that will benefit the hungry in Worcester. There will be more information forthcoming, but please contact Thom Tarquinio or Pastor Nathan if you are interested in helping with this project.

Finally, we reviewed and approved a letter from Pastors Nathan and Susan affirming our welcome to immigrants and refugees as voted by congregation at the recent Annual Meeting.

Our next regularly scheduled Council meeting is on March 13 at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend.



## Faith Formation for All Ages

**Sunday Education for Children & Youth ... 9 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.**

Elementary: Sunday Morning TEAM in the back half of Fellowship Hall

Middle School: Confirmation with Karin Underkoffler in Confirmation classroom, ce214.

High School: Meets in Youth Room

**Sunday Adult Forum ... 9:00am to 9:50am. Library**

The nature of the Adult Forum is that of exploration and sharing of one's doubts and certainties. Participants are encouraged to speak from one's own perspective and to engage in "active listening" so that there is space for each participant to share one's opinion / position, to be heard and be challenged to grow.

**Men's Bible Study ... Wednesdays 8 – 9 a.m. Golden Room**

Pastor Nathan leads the bible study which reads and discusses the lessons to be read in the upcoming liturgies on Sunday morning. The format is relaxed and conversational. Contact Pastor Nathan for more information (npipho@trinityworc.org)

**Wednesdays 7 – 8 p.m.**

Middle School: Confirmation with Melissa Butler in Confirmation classroom, ce214

High School: Meets with Jena in Youth Room

**Lenten Bible Study:** Beginning on Tuesday, March 7 at 10 a.m. and continuing every Tuesday thereafter through April 4, bible study focusing on John's Gospel will be offered in the Golden Room. This study is a continuation of last year's study and we shall begin with the Book of John, Chapter 6. Pastor Eric VanLeeuwen will guide us during this study. Discussion and dialog are encouraged. Jesus said, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" John 7:37-38.

## 2017 ALTAR CANDLES, FLOWERS, TOWER LIGHTING, TRINITY NEWS and TV MINISTRY

In this coming year, the Parish Office encourages donors for the altar candles, flowers, tower lighting, *Trinity News* and TV Ministry to sign up early by using the following form.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

- **Altar Candles:** \$15 per month to sponsor the altar candles for the month of \_\_\_\_\_ 2017. The dedication is to read "given to the glory of God in honor/memory/celebration (circle one) of: \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_."
- **Altar Flowers:** As sponsor, you will order the flowers from the florist of your choice. You may have the florist pick up the floral inserts from the Parish Office if you are ordering the double bouquet for the stands or you may order an arrangement in a vase that the florist supplies. The cost is paid directly to the chosen florist and the donation is noted in the bulletin for the chosen Sunday. Please call the Parish Office if you have any questions about this process.

I would like to give the flowers on Sunday, \_\_\_\_\_, 2017. The dedication is to read "given to the glory of God in honor/memory/celebration (circle one) of:

\_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_.

- **Tower Lighting:** \$15 per half month to sponsor the Tower Lighting for the first half/last half (circle one) of the month of \_\_\_\_\_ 2017. The dedication is to read "given to the glory of God in honor/memory/celebration (circle one) of: \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_."
- **Trinity News:** \$50 per month to sponsor *Trinity News* for the month of \_\_\_\_\_ 2017. The dedication is to read "given to the glory of God in honor/memory/celebration (circle one) of: \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_."
- **TV Ministry:** \$150 per Sunday broadcast to sponsor the TV Ministry for Sunday, \_\_\_\_\_, 2017. The dedication is to read "given to the glory of God in honor/memory/celebration (circle one) of: \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_."

Total amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**This form is due in the Parish Office by Tuesday at 5 p.m. if not earlier. Thank you. Or you may drop this form and payment made out to Trinity Lutheran Church in the offering plate on Sundays, at the Parish Office, or send by mail to Trinity Lutheran Church, 73 Lancaster Street, Worcester, MA 01609.**

## Parish Office Notes...

**Is church cancelled or delayed due to weather conditions?** If you are asking yourself this question, you may get an answer by doing one of the following: 1) Call the parish office at (508) 753-2989 and listen to the voice mail message; 2) Listen to either WTAG (580 AM) or WSRS (96.1 FM) for the list of closings or delays; or, 3) Watch the cancellation/delay listing at the bottom of the screen on WBZ channel 4, WCVB channel 5, or FOX channel 25.

**Do you need a copy of the Word in Season booklet?** This is a great tool for everyone to use as they study the Bible. The book can be mailed to you or picked up quarterly. Each day of the quarter has its own page listing several readings from the Bible as well as a commentary about something in the reading. It takes only a few minutes each day and it gives an inspiring message. Please call the parish office at (508) 753-2989 and request your copy and that your name be added to our regular mailing list. The parish office now has the issue for April, May, and June 2017.

**Is Someone in the Hospital?** If you know that a parishioner is in the hospital, please call the parish office at (508) 753-2989 to let us know. Also, please be sure to have your loved one's Trinity membership included in their hospital profile. Calls are made daily to the area hospitals, and names of Trinity members who are in the hospital are provided to us for updating in the Parish Notes.

**Welcome Desk Extending Hours:** Are you looking for something to do outside of your home? The Welcome Desk at Trinity is trying to extend the hours so the Parish office is open into the early evening from 4 p.m. to 7 or 8 p.m. If you have a few hours to help every week or every other week, please contact Karen Allen, Office Manager, by email ([admin@trinityworc.org](mailto:admin@trinityworc.org)) or by phone (508-753-2989 Ext. 11)

**Parish Office as a Drop Off Point:** If you are leaving something for someone in the Parish Office or the copy room, please label who is dropping it off and who is expected to be picking it up and when. This helps to get all items to their expected destinations. Thanks for your cooperation in making this happen.

**Calling for All Addresses, Telephone and Email Changes:** Please be sure to keep the parish office updated with your most current street address, email, and phone numbers. If you have any questions, contact Karen Allen at [admin@trinityworc.org](mailto:admin@trinityworc.org) or call (508) 753-2989 x11.



TRINITY  
*Restoring  
Renewing  
Rejoicing*

**Ongoing Conversation ...** A number of topics for conversation and consideration have been identified by members in our return to the Nave.

Following the 10 a.m. liturgy on **Sunday, February 12**, we began a conversation focused on the flow of Communion. We recognize that we are still adapting

to the flow of the procession to and from the table. We wish to continue experimenting with the procedure of the north side of the nave communing after the choir, approaching from the center aisle, filling all around the table at the rails on both the nave and chancel level, then returning via the side aisles. After the north side communes, the south side communes, approaching the table from the north, reversing the flow of the procession. Anyone is welcome to receive at the rails on the nave level, but we encourage especially those people for whom negotiating steps is uncomfortable to use the main level. There is a consensus that we need more time to practice this pattern before we propose another.

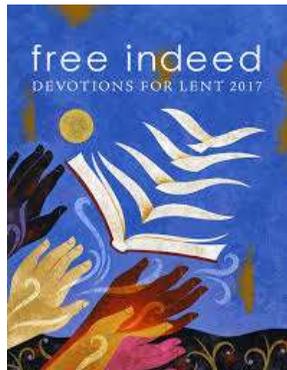
Upcoming sessions, which will be held in the Nave immediately following the 10 a.m. liturgy:

**Sunday, March 5 – Communion (continued) & Lighting and Sound Systems.** We will continue discussing changes to Communion, as well as any additional feedback regarding the lighting and sound systems.

**Sunday, March 12 – Placement of the American Flag.** Some members have expressed concern over the new location of the American flag and questioned whether or not flags will be returned to their previous locations. Together, we will explore the many viewpoints on this topic and learn from one another about the connection between the flag and our faith.

Pastor Susan and Pastor Nathan will facilitate the conversations and members of the Congregational Council will be in attendance listening and learning in order to determine the most appropriate courses of action going forward. Feel free to share any other feedback with the pastors or with a Council member.

**Trinity's Commemoration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation:** A number of events are being planned at Trinity to commemorate the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. We begin in Lent with "Free Indeed" daily devotionals and intentional study of the Small Catechism during Sunday morning Adult Forum and on Wednesday evenings. In Easter, a number of professionally printed posters will be on display that present a timeline of the Reformation. This summer, Cantor Mark will offer a series exploring Luther's hymnody. In the first part of the Fall, Carter Lindberg will lead the Adult Forum in exploration of a number of Reformation images that tell the story of faith. Later in the Fall, Pastor Nathan will lead the Adult Forum in a study of economic writings of Martin Luther. On Reformation Weekend itself, we will celebrate with a Hymn Festival of Reformation Hymns. As we make our way through the commemoration, we will be guided by the question "What does this mean today?" in a way that allows the Reformation to continue shape, inform, and guide our faith today. For more information, please contact Pastor Susan or Pastor Nathan.

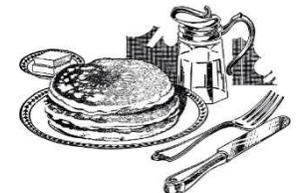


**"Free Indeed: Devotions for Lent 2017"** ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has encouraged all congregations of the ELCA to set aside intentional time to study the Small Catechism of Martin Luther during Lent as part of this year's commemoration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. To participate in the study, Trinity has purchased "Free Indeed" Lenten devotionals that take readers on a daily trip through the Catechism. Copies of the devotional will be made available for all members/friends of Trinity who desire one. To supplement the daily readings of the devotional, a teaching team of Trinity's active and retired pastors will be leading conversation and discussion of the Catechism during both the Sunday morning Adult Forum beginning March 5 and the Wednesday evening Fellowship Dinner on March 9. For more information, please speak with Pastor Susan or Pastor Nathan.

**Spring Cleanup Weekend at Camp Calumet** is May 5-7, 2017. If you and your family are interested in going to Camp Calumet for the first time or the hundredth time, this weekend is for you! In exchange for some work around camp, you will get free lodging and meals. If you think you're interested, let Jena know!



## Basketball Games and Community Breakfast



Basketball and Breakfast at Trinity is underway! Over 60 children from the Worcester community are playing in the league and our first breakfast fed over 100 of our neighbors in the community! With your help we have raised \$2,600 through our fundraising campaign and we have also received individual member grants through Thrivent Financial. Thank you for your support! **Still interested in helping out?**

- **When:** Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. through March 18, 2017
- **Where:** Trinity Lutheran Church Gym, Kitchen and Fellowship Hall
- **Volunteers:** Volunteers of all ages interested in preparing and serving meals
- **Contact:** Jake Schur - [jake.schur@gmail.com](mailto:jake.schur@gmail.com) or (978) 602-4115

**Meal Packing at Trinity:** The Bible is filled with passages concerning the importance of feeding the hungry. In the past, Trinity has partnered with WPI to fund and participate in Meal Packaging Sessions, during which we packaged 12,000 meals. These sessions are organized and directed by a non-profit named "The Outreach Program" ([www.outreachprogram.org](http://www.outreachprogram.org)). During Lent, we aim to raise at least \$3,000 in order to package 12,000 meals (each meal costs 25 cents). On Sundays in Lent, we will have samples of the actual packaged meals. We invite people to purchase and eat these meals as part of the fundraising and to raise awareness of the reality that in many cases this meal will be the only food a family may eat in an entire day. After raising the funds (the hard part), we will then be seeking volunteers to actually assemble the meals (the fun part). Please watch for more details about an event occurring in Jeppson Hall on a Saturday afternoon in the Spring.



Ending Hunger. Enriching Lives.

**Trinity's Long History of Resettling Refugees:** Most recently, Trinity has settled courageous families from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. As we hear the call of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we embrace the diversity of all God's children and seek to welcome them with love and respect. We stand with them and they are welcome here! Currently, under the leadership of Bev and Dave Hobbs, Trinity seeks to begin settling another refugee family. To help with this important ministry, please contact Beverly at [bhobbs390@charter.net](mailto:bhobbs390@charter.net) or speak with one of the pastors.

## YOUTH NEWS:

**Kids Cooking and Delivering Meals:** We've started something new to connect some of our older church members with our youngest ones. Kids and their parents are invited to prepare a meal together at church once a month and deliver it to pre-determined older adults. We're hoping that it's going to be the start of a new, important intergenerational ministry! Stay tuned for more details and ways to participate. Please contact Jena if you have any ideas or input! She may be reached at (508) 753-2989 x16 or by email at [jhardy@trinityworc.org](mailto:jhardy@trinityworc.org).



**How to respond to homelessness and need?** Lately, it seems like a lot of us are noticing and wondering what our response *should* be to those who are homeless here in Worcester. What do you and your family do? Do you keep Blessing Bags in your car and hand them out to those you encounter? Do you knit scarves and leave them in public places? Please send Jena an email or leave a note in her mailbox so she can compile a list of ideas that others might want to try!

**April Mission Trip to Gettysburg, PA:** During April School Vacation, Trinity youth, Pastor Nathan and Jena will be going to Gettysburg with the rest of the LIPY group! The cost is \$400/person. Please see Jena to find out how much you owe! Remember, there is a **MANDATORY Mission Trip Meeting on Sunday, March 26** at Bethlehem Lutheran in Sturbridge. Please make sure you have the afternoon/evening free so you can be at this meeting!

**2018 National Gathering – Houston, TX:** Youth who are currently in grades 8, 9, 10 and 11 are eligible to participate in the ELCA's National Youth Gathering in Houston, June 27-July 1, 2018! It might seem like a long time from now but there's LOTS to do and plan for between now and then. The average cost per person is \$1,000 so we need to start fundraising ASAP. Please contact Jena if you're interested in going

## + Worship at Trinity Lutheran Church +

### Wednesday, March 1 Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 *Return to God*

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 *Now is the day of salvation*

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 *The practice of faith*

Psalmody: Psalm 51:1-17 *Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.*

Hymn of the Day: *Out of the Depths I Cry to You*, ELW Hymn 600

*The beginning of Lent gives us the occasion to admit that we will die and that we are sinners. On Ash Wednesday we are marked with ashes—a sign of our death and of our sorrow for sin—but the ashes trace a cross on our forehead, where the baptismal water first marked us with God's grace.*

**12:00 Noon – Midweek Holy Eucharist (Nave)**

**7 p.m. - Midweek Holy Eucharist (Nave)**

### Sunday, March 5 First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 *Eating the tree of knowledge*

Romans 5:12-19 *Death came, life comes*

Matthew 4:1-11 *The temptation of Christ*

Psalmody: Psalm 32 *Mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.*

Hymn of the Day: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*, ELW Hymn 503

*Each year on the first Sunday in Lent we hear about Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, and we pray that we may be able to resist the temptations that come to us here and now. Come to worship, to receive the Spirit's strength to live in light of your baptism.*

**8 a.m. – Holy Eucharist (Christ Chapel)**

**10 a.m. – Holy Eucharist (Nave)**

### Wednesday, March 8

**6 p.m. - Lenten Holy Eucharist (Nave)**

### Sunday, March 12 Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a *The blessing of God on Abram*

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 *The promise to those of Abraham's faith*

John 3:1-17 *The mission of Christ: saving the world*

Psalmody: Psalm 121 *I will lift up my eyes to the hills; my help comes from the Lord.*

Hymn of the Day: *God Loved the World*, ELW Hymn 323

*This coming Sunday, we set off along with Abraham, as he journeyed to the Promised Land, and with Nicodemus, when he visited Jesus in the night, for we are heading through Lent to arrive at Easter. Come: join the people of God in prayer and praise, word and meal.*

**8 a.m. – Holy Eucharist (Christ Chapel)**

**10 a.m. – Holy Eucharist (Nave)**

**Wednesday, March 15**

**6 p.m. - Lenten Holy Eucharist** (*Nave*)

**Sunday, March 19** Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7 *Water from the rock*

Romans 5:1-11 *Reconciled to God by Christ's death*

John 4:5-42 *The woman at the well*

Psalmody: Psalm 95 Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

Hymn of the Day: *As the Deer Runs to the River*, ELW Hymn 331

*During Lent we accompany Jesus to his cross and resurrection, and this coming Sunday we stop at a well to receive a drink of water. The water turns out to be Christ himself. Come to worship, and join all of us thirsty people, made alive in Christ.*

**8 a.m. – Holy Eucharist** (*Christ Chapel*)

**10 a.m. – Holy Eucharist** (*Nave*)

**Wednesday, March 22**

**6 p.m. - Lenten Holy Eucharist** (*Nave*)

**Sunday, March 26** Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13 *David is chosen and anointed*

Ephesians 5:8-14 *Live as children of light*

John 9:1-41 *The man born blind*

Psalmody: Psalm 23 *You anoint my head with oil.*

Hymn of the Day: *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*, ELW Hymn 332

*Last week the salvation that Christ offers the world was likened to water, and this coming week God's mercy is likened to light. What is the "darkness" in your life? Come to worship to celebrate the light that is Christ in you.*

**8 a.m. – Holy Eucharist** (*Christ Chapel*)

**10 a.m. – Holy Eucharist** (*Nave*)

**Wednesday, March 29**

**6 p.m. - Lenten Holy Eucharist** (*Nave*)



**Communion Distribution, Assisting Ministers, Sacristans, Bread Bakers and Ushers:**

Perhaps you are feeling called to serve as a leader in Sunday morning worship. This is a wonderful opportunity to grow in faith and to learn more about our shared worship life. If you are interested in this ministry, please contact one of the pastors. A training session will be scheduled in the near future. God is glorified in our serving!

**Trinity Travel Group:** The Kickoff meeting will be held on Friday, March 10, at 11 a.m. in Jeppson Hall. Be sure to stop in and see what great excursions are in store! Anyone who is not currently on the mailing list and would like information on the trips prior to the meeting may contact Beth Axelson at baxelson015@gmail.com or pick it up in the church office.

**Scholarship Applications are Available!** Applications will be accepted from any confirmed member of Trinity Lutheran Church who is enrolled in a full time, undergraduate degree program for an Associate's or Bachelor's degree. Applications are available on the kiosk or from the Parish Office. Call the office at (508) 753-2989, or on the Trinity website at trinityworc.org/scholarship-application. Completed applications are due in the Parish Office by Friday, June 23.

**Campership Applications are Available Outside the Nave** or at the kiosk in Jeppson Hall (or online at trinityworc.org/campership-application) for those who wish to attend camp and need assistance with paying the registration fee. This opportunity is limited to children of church members who will attend a Lutheran summer camp like Camp Calumet or the summer camp of a full-communion partner church (e.g. Episcopal or United Methodist). Completed forms are due in the parish office by May 19. For anyone interested in making a donation to help Trinity's children go to camp, please send your donations to the Trinity office marked as "Campership" in the memo section of your check. Thank you!

**Community Scholarship Applications Now Available:** There are two College Scholarship applications now available. You may obtain information and applications for each of the follow programs from the parish office at admin@trinityworc.org or (508) 753-2989 x 11.

- The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Program: Any resident of Worcester and the contiguous communities is eligible to apply regardless of race or ethnic origin. Deadline is April 7.
- Greater Worcester Community Foundation: Any high school senior resident of Worcester County and plans to attend college in the fall. Deadline is March 6, 2017.

## Briefly Noted

**Remember, First Sunday Is Food Sunday!** Please bring your non-perishable food items to Trinity on March 5 and April 2. Your food donations go to Carty Cupboard, which provides food to those in need in the immediate area. Thank you for helping those in need!

Remember to "Spring Forward" on your clocks for Daylight Saving time before going to bed on Saturday, March 11  
So you'll be on time for church on Sunday, March 12

**Orders for Easter flowers** will be accepted through Sunday, April 2. The cost is \$18 per plant. Please print the memorial notation on the envelope so the Parish Office includes the correct spelling on the memorial listing. Thanks in advance for helping to meet this deadline and request! These plants that you order will be available for you to take home after the second Sunday of Easter, April 23. Again, thank you for your help in meeting this request.

**Mark Your Calendars!** Elm Park Ministries Day Camp will be for two weeks starting with Mondays of July 31 and August 7, 2017 at Trinity Lutheran Church. More details will be coming in the spring.

### Follow the ministry of Trinity on Social Media!



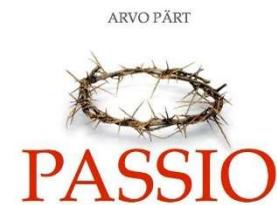
Facebook.com/tlcworchester  
Twitter: @tlcworchester  
Instagram: trinityworchester

If you have pictures of the Trinity ministry in action for posting, please submit to either Cantor Mark ([mmummert@trinityworc.org](mailto:mmummert@trinityworc.org)) or Pastor Nathan ([npipho@trinityworc.org](mailto:npipho@trinityworc.org)).



**MISERERE** Wednesday, March 1 at 7 p.m. / During the annual evening Holy Eucharist for Ash Wednesday, the Trinity Choir sings Gregorio Allegri's *Miserere Mei*, an expansive setting of Psalm 51 for double choir.

**NATALIS** Tuesday, March 21 at 7 p.m. / On the 332<sup>nd</sup> birthday of Johann Sebastian Bach, Cantor Mark Mummert plays a recital of organ works by the great master. The concert is free; an offering will be received. A birthday cake reception follows the concert in Jeppson Hall.



The highlight of this year's MUSIC AT TRINITY series is the performance of **PASSIO**, a setting of the passion story from the gospel of John set by the Estonian composer Arvo Pärt. The performance will enhance our Holy Week observance on Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday, **April 9 at 4 p.m.** This performance features guest singers and instrumentalists with the Trinity Choir and the St. John's Schola Cantorum of Worcester.

An **INTRODUCTION TO ARVO PÄRT'S PASSIO** will feature three experts on the music of Arvo Pärt on Sunday, **March 26 at 2 p.m.** in Jeppson Hall. The concert and the lecture are free; offerings will be received. All are welcome! The presenters are Dr. Jeffers Englehardt (Amherst), Dr. Andrew Shenton (Brown University), and Dr. Peter Bouteneff (St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary)



# TRINITY CONGREGATION COUNCIL

## Officers:

**Jessica Sutherland**

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**Jacob Schur**

*Vice President*  
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**Susan Brown**

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**Jonathan Hill**

*Treasurer*  
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## Other Council Members:

Alivia Burns

Andrew Gingras

Kathleen Gingras

Richard Grusell

Tim Horan

Dale Mattice

Mark Mummert

The Rev. Susan Nachtigal

The Rev. Nathan Pipho

Sulma Rupert-Silva

Joel Schur

Thom Tarquinio

Danny Whittemore

To contact someone on the Council, **e-mail** admin@trinityworc.org and the Parish Office will forward the messages; or **mail** your note to Trinity Lutheran Church, 73 Lancaster Street, Worcester, MA 01609-3152.

## PARISH STAFF CONTACTS

Parish Office: (508) 753-2989

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**Deadline for April 2017 Issue: March 20, 2017**

## ✠ PASTORAL ACTS ✠

### FUNERALS

Robert Dubeau 27.December

Carlene St. Francis 10.February

Kenny Nystrom 17.February

Lawrence St. Francis 27.February

## ✠ CELEBRATIONS ✠

### BIRTHDAYS

Hazel Bates 5.March

Kenneth Henrikson 6.March

Shirlee Johnson 9.March

Paul Dyberg 13.March

Mildred Hermanson 14.March

Lois Bergstrom 22.March

Joyce Forsman 24.March

Sally Freeburn 25.March

Audrey Carlson 29.March

Phyllis Gunnarson 29.March

### ANNIVERSARIES

Fred and Kathleen Wedemeyer 21.March

Birthdays and anniversaries are noted each month after persons have reached the age of 80 or have been married for twenty-five years or more. Thereafter anniversaries are noted in five-year increments until couples celebrate fifty years, and then every year after fifty years is reached. If we missed your special date, know that the error was unintentional, and inform the parish office so that the record may be corrected.

