

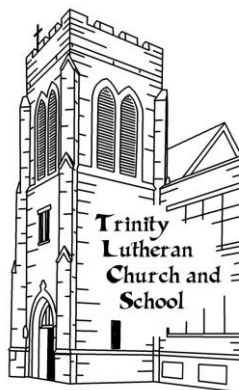
Trinity Lutheran Church & School  
300 Broad Street  
Menasha, WI 54952



# March 2026 Newsletter

**Mid-Week Wednesday Services, March 4, 11, 18 & 25 no communion @9:00 AM or 6:30 PM.  
Lenten Meals on Wednesday 4, 11, 18 & 25 @ 5:15 PM hosted by various church boards.**





**Trinity Lutheran Church & School**

300 Broad Street • Menasha, WI 54952

**Church Phone:** (920) 722-2662 / **School Phone:** (920) 725-1715

**Church Office Hours:** Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**Website:** www.trinitymenasha.com

**Divine Services:** Saturday – 5:00 PM / Sunday – 9:00 AM

**Education Hour:** Sunday - 10:30 AM

Services will continue to be available for streaming on Trinity’s Facebook page. Check the church website for more details.

**IMPORTANT DATES IN March**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time/Event</b>
March 3	6:30 PM Board Meetings
March 4	9:00 AM <b>Lent 2 Mid-Week Services</b> 5:15 PM Lenten Meal 6:30 PM Lent 2 Divine Service
March 5	5:15 PM Handbell Rehearsal 6:30 PM Ensemble Rehearsal
March 6	7:00 PM <b>Hymn Sing</b>
March 8	<b>Daylight Savings Starts</b>
March 10	6:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting
March 11	9:00 AM <b>Lent 3 Mid-Week Services</b> 5:15 PM Lenten Meal 6:30 PM Lent 3 Divine Service
March 12	5:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 Ensemble Rehearsal
March 14	9:30 AM Food Pantry
March 17	6:30 PM Ladies Aid Meeting
March 18	9:00 AM <b>Lent 4 Mid-Week Services</b> 5:15 PM Lenten Meal 6:30 PM Lent 4 Divine Service
March 19	5:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 Ensemble rehearsal
March 23	5:00 PM – 8:00 PM Culver’s Dine Out
March 25	9:00 AM <b>Lent 5 Mid-Week Services</b> 5:15 PM Lenten Meal 6:30 PM Lent 5 Divine Service
March 26	5:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal
March 28	9:30 AM Food Pantry
March 29	9:00 AM <b>Palm Sunday</b> , passion of Our Lord

**Our Mission Statement:**

Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Menasha, is a fellowship of Lutheran Christians being empowered by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God and His Sacraments to encourage, refresh, and strengthen both adults and children in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, while who do not yet know their Lord and Savior.



**Senior Pastor:**

† Rev. Steven S. Billings

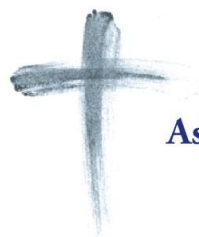
**Associate Pastor/Principal:**

† Rev. Keith E. GeRue

**Music Director/Organist:**

Nancy Lephart

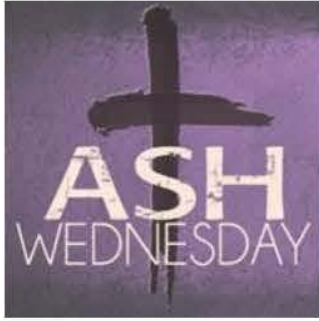
# March



Ash Wednesday  
— Lent Begins

Trinity Lutheran Church & School  
Church Phone: (920) 722-2662  
School Phone: (920) 725-1715  
Church Office Hours:  
Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Email: ChurchAdrnin@trinityrnenasha.com

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> <b>Lent Week 2</b> 9:00 AM Divine Service 10:30 AM Ed Hour	<b>2</b> Rev Billings' Sabbath 9:00 AM Sewing 5:00 PM Adult Info Class 6:00 PM Home Prayer 6:30 PM Women's Bible at the Menasha Library	<b>3</b> 6:30 AM Ladies Bible Study 6:30 PM Board Mtgs	<b>4</b> <b>Mid-Week Lent 2</b> Worship services: 9:00 AM Divine Service 5:00 PM Catechism 5:15 PM Lenten Meal 6:30 PM Divine Service	<b>5</b> 6:00 AM Men's Bible Study 5:15 PM Handbell Rehearsal 6:30 PM Ensemble Rehearsal	<b>6</b> 7:00 PM Hymn Sing	<b>7</b> 5:00PM Divine Service
<b>8</b> <b>Lent Week 3</b> <b>Daylight Savings Starts</b> 9:00 AM Divine Service 10:30 AM Ed Hour	<b>9</b> Rev Billings' Sabbath 9:00 AM Sewing 5:00 PM Adult Info Class 6:00 PM Home Prayer 6:30 PM Women's Bible at the Menasha Library	<b>10</b> 6:30 AM Ladies Bible Study 6:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting	<b>11</b> <b>Mid-Week Lent 3</b> Worship services: 9:00 AM Divine Service 5:00 PM Catechism 5:15 PM Lenten Meal 6:30 PM Divine Service	<b>12</b> 6:00 AM Men's Bible Study 5:15 PM Handbell Rehearsal 6:30 PM Ensemble Rehearsal	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9:30 AM Food Pantry 5:00PM Divine Service
<b>15</b> <b>Lent Week 4</b> 9:00 AM Divine Service 10:30 AM Ed Hour	<b>16</b> Rev Billings' Sabbath 9:00 AM Sewing 5:00 PM Adult Info Class 6:00 PM Home Prayer 6:30 PM Women's Bible at the Menasha Library	<b>17</b> 6:30 AM Ladies Bible Study 6:30 PM Ladies Aid Meeting <b>Saint Patrick's Day</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Mid-Week Lent 4</b> Worship services: 9:00 AM Divine Service 5:00 PM Catechism 5:15 PM Lenten Meal 6:30 PM Divine Service	<b>19</b> 6:00 AM Men's Bible Study 5:15 PM Handbell Rehearsal 6:30 PM Ensemble Rehearsal	<b>20</b> <b>First Day of Spring</b>	<b>21</b> 5:00PM Divine Service
<b>22</b> <b>Lent Week 5</b> 9:00 AM Divine Service 10:30 AM Ed Hour	<b>23</b> Rev Billings' Sabbath 9:00 AM Sewing 5:00 PM Adult Info Class 6:00 PM Home Prayer 6:30 PM Women's Bible at the Menasha Library	<b>24</b> 6:30 AM Ladies Bible Study	<b>25</b> <b>Mid-Week Lent 5</b> Worship services: 9:00 AM Divine Service 5:00 PM Catechism 5:15 PM Lenten Meal 6:30 PM Divine Service	<b>26</b> 6:00 AM Men's Bible Study 5:15 PM Handbell Rehearsal 6:30 PM Ensemble Rehearsal	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9:30 Food Pantry 5:00PM Palm Sunday, Passion of our Lord
<b>29</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9:00 AM, Passion of Our Lord Service 10:30 AM Ed Hour	<b>30</b> Rev Billings' Sabbath 9:00 AM Sewing 5:00 PM Adult Info Class 6:00 PM Home Prayer 6:30 PM Women's Bible at the Menasha Library	<b>31</b> 6:30 AM Ladies Bible Study				



## *The Angels of the Passion*

### 2026 Sermon Theme for Lent Mid-Week Services

The theme of our Lent mid-week meditations this year is: “The Angels of the Passion.” This is just a fun way for me to try to tell the passion account in a creative way. Yes, I have taken some poetic license here but believe I remain faithful and true to the passion account. I hope this makes you think about the passion account in a new way and grow in appreciation for it.

Our Lenten Mid-Week Services are at 9:00 AM and 6:30 PM. The weekly topics will be:

- March 4: “Angels of the Passion: A Mission of Mercy, Part 1”  
Scripture Reference: Genesis 19:1-16; Matthew 4:1-11
- March 11: “Angels of the Passion: Traitors!”  
Scripture Reference: Job 1:1, 6-12; 2:1-8; Luke 22:24-34 and John 13:21-30
- March 18: “Angels of the Passion: A Mission of Mercy, Part 2”  
Scripture Reference: Deuteronomy 21:22-23; Luke 22:39-46
- March 25: “Angels of the Passion: Just One Little Word”  
Scripture Reference: 2 Kings 6:8-23; Matthew 26:47-56

Join us for the mid-week Lenten meal which begins at 5:15 pm.

#### **Holy Week Divine Services:**

Palm Sunday, March 28 & 29: Saturday: 5:00 PM, Sunday 9:00 AM

Maundy Thursday, April 2: 9:00 AM and 6:30 PM

Good Friday, April 3: Tre Ore Service: 12:00 PM  
Tenebrae Service: 6:30 PM

Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 4: 7:30 PM

Easter Sunrise Divine Service, April 5: 6:30 AM

Easter Sunday Divine Service, April 5: 9:00 AM

#### **Trinity Lutheran Church and School**

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Phone: (920) 722-2662 Website: [www.trinitymenasha.com](http://www.trinitymenasha.com)

Email: [churchadmin@trinitymenasha.com](mailto:churchadmin@trinitymenasha.com)

*Anniversary Blessings*  
*March 2026*



3/01 Noelle & Merle Webber  
3/03 Carl & Christine Kohler  
3/05 Timothy & Teresa Wray  
3/19 Linda & Christian Kohler  
3/30 Dawn & Todd Henrickson  
3/31 Marc & Sandy Guiley

*March 2026*

*Birthday Blessings!*

03/01 Paul Collingwood	03/19 Margaret Dahms
03/01 Anne Dahms	03/20 Bonnie Brill
03/01 Alexander Kamparth	03/20 Gabrielle Callan
03/01 Larry Olsen	03/21 Jane Thoman
03/01 Brittney, Voigt	03/22 Linda Ratzburg
03/02 Daniel Siebert	03/23 Deb Bartelme
03/02 Jodi Wendler	03/23 Ashley Booth
03/03 Hunter Ross	03/23 Sophie Lynn Wagner
03/04 William Diesch	03/24 Steve Sexmith
03/05 Richard Burrows	03/25 James Boss
03/05 Shirley Erdman	03/27 Russell Borchardt
03/06 Miley Anderson	03/27 Gabriel Mlodik
03/10 Tyler Kamprath	03/28 Eve Rausch
03/12 Cecelia Street	03/29 Scott Kohler
03/13 Isaac Gast	03/31 Scott Gutzman
03/15 Darrell Krause	03/31 Oliver Ross
03/16 Tim Jandrey	



✠ *Trinity Membership Update* ✠

**New Members/Transfers In:**

**Released/Transfers Out: Joy White**

**Baptisms:                      Weddings:**

**Those Who Have Passed: Mary Howden, January 30, 2026,  
Barbara Bartel February 9, 2026**

<sup>25</sup>For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth. <sup>26</sup>And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God. Job 19:25-26

# Serving Our Lord with Gladness – March 2026

Senior Pastor: Rev. Steven S. Billings

Associate Pastor/School Principal: Rev. Keith E. GeRue

<b>Divine Service Date/Time</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Elder on Duty</b>	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	<b>Usher Captain</b>	<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Altar Guild</b>
<b><u>Second Sunday in Lent</u></b> March 1: 9 AM	Emma Anderson	Micael Bekx	Paul Collingwood	Wittman	Barbara Kester	Craig & Jill Thomas
<b><u>Lent 2 Mid-Week</u></b> March 4: 9 AM March 4: 6:30 PM	Robbie Kohler	TBD	N/A N/A	Maynard/Wittman		N/A
<b><u>Third Sunday in Lent</u></b> March 7: 5 PM March 8: 9 AM	Richie Sprouse Emma Anderson	Robert Allen Michael Bekx	Steve Reinke Josiah Nielsen	Gast/Corrente Dave Collingwood	Dan/Peggy Dahms Rose Collingwood	Jean Zeinert Jill & Craig Thomas
<b><u>Lent 3 Mid-Week</u></b> March 11: 9 AM March 11: 6:30 PM	Robbie Kohler	TBD	N/A N/A	Gast/Corrente Collingwood		N/A
<b><u>Fourth Sunday in Lent</u></b> March 14: 5 PM March 15: 9:00 AM	Richie Sprouse Emma Anderson	Robert Allan Michael Bekx	Ian Thomas Dave Collingwood	Voigt Sexmith	Joann Schultz Jane Nielsen	Shirley Fleischer Jill & Craig Thomas
<b><u>Lent 4 mid-Week</u></b> March 18: 9 AM March 18: 6:30 PM	Robbie Kohler	TBD	N/A N/A	Voigt/Sexmith		N/A
<b><u>Fifth Sunday in Lent</u></b> March 21: 5 PM March 22: 9:00 AM	Richie Sprouse Emma Anderson	Robert Allen Michael Bekx	Dan Siebert Steve Sexmith	Robert Allen Lee Weinig	Betty Allen Volunteer	Shirley Fleischer Craig & Jill Thomas
<b><u>Lent 5 Mid-Week</u></b> March 25: 9:30 AM March 25: 6:30 PM	Robbie Kohler	TBD	N/A N/A	Allen/Weinig		N/A
<b><u>Palm Sunday</u></b> March 28: 5 PM March 29: 9 AM	Richie Sprouse Emma Anderson	Robert Allen Michael Bekx	Vern Jahsman Scott Gutzman	Gast/Corrente Dave Collingwood	Dan & Peggy Dahms Rose Collingwood	Carol Evensen Craig & Jill Thomas



# Catechetical Comments

A Series

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

This month we continue our consideration of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed by taking up question 112.

*112. What do we owe our heavenly Father for all His goodness?*

It is our duty to

A. "Thank and praise, serve and obey Him."

The *Catechism* continues its explanation of the First Article of the Creed by asking the question:

*What do we owe our heavenly Father for all His goodness?*

It answers this question by saying:

*It is our duty to*

*A. "Thank and praise, serve and obey Him."*

It then presents the following Scriptures in support of this answer:

**Psalm 116:12** – What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits to me?

**Psalm 118:1** – Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever.

We're living in a world where ingratitude and an attitude of entitlement reigns. As a society, we expect the good things of life to be handed to us simply because we want them. Favors become expectations and good deeds are

written off as things owed us simply on the basis of our being alive. There are exceptions to this, thank God, but these seem to be fewer and further between than ever before.

In glaring contrast to this, Scripture makes clear the reality that, rather than our being entitled to the blessings of God, it is God who is entitled . . . to our thanks, praise, service, and obedience.

**Thanks** . . . at the very least. If someone gives you a candy bar, they're entitled to your thanks. God has given you everything. Thank Him.

**Praise** . . . do we even know what this means anymore? Recognition of a job well done is praise. God does all things well. Praise Him.

**Service** . . . God doesn't ask you to serve Him; He demands it of you. And, if you were truly grateful, you would serve Him without His asking or demanding.

**Obedience** . . . this is a strange one, for it demands that you follow God's Will, which is really to allow Him to bless you. When God commands you to honor the Sabbath Day, for instance, He's really demanding that you come to His house and let Him feed you with His Word and Sacraments. How odd that we should consider this to be asking too much!

Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His mercy endures forever! How could we ever repay Him for all the good He's done for us? Bottom line: we can't. Try as we might, we can never fulfill our duty. But Jesus can, and He did, and His Spirit enables to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him, not as payment, but out of gratitude. ✠

Humbly in His service,  
Rev. Steven S. Billings  
Senior Pastor

# Lutheran Clarion



Official Publication of the Lutheran Concerns Association

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 2

DECEMBER 2025

## ***An Apologia for the Historic Liturgy\****

Rev. William C. Weedon

Senior Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church Worden, Illinois

Why do I support the historic liturgy? Is it because I am drawn to the music? to the pageantry? to the “style”? That I enjoy the singing of Lutheran chorales and Gregorian chant the way that another person enjoys the back beat of a rock song? No, no, no, no.

You see, I am simply convinced that LIFE is liturgical. God created us and placed humanity into this world to be the priest of His creation, to receive from Him His good gifts and to offer up a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. He created us to live in the joy of His presence, to find LIFE in communion with Him. The historic liturgy testifies to this Biblical vision of reality.

“It is indeed meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, Your only Son...and so with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying: Holy, holy, holy...Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!”

These words confess that the liturgy is meant not to be a blip in time or confined to some Church building. They confess that all of our life, when that life is found in Jesus Christ, is to be doxology. St. Paul put it like this: “That we might BE to the praise of His glory” (Eph 1:12). And this fills the Scriptures! Think of it.

Genesis is filled with liturgy from the get go: inside Eden where God walked and talked with men; outside Eden where the way of sacrifice begins and the theme of priest and sacrifice begin to ring through! From Cain and Abel to Melchizedek to the Sacrifice of Isaac. When the Lord was about to bring His people out of Egypt, He told Moses that the sign of being brought out was that “you shall serve God on this mountain.” (Ex 3:12). When Pharaoh is ready to release the people, but not their property, Moses gives a most peculiar answer--and we must believe he spoke the utter truth: “You must also let us have sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God. Our livestock also must go with us, not a hoof shall be left behind, for we must take of them to serve

the Lord our God, and we do not know with what we must serve the Lord until we arrive there” (Ex 10:25,26). And when they arrive at the holy mountain, God explains His purpose to Moses: “Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all people, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words you shall speak to the people of Israel.” (Ex. 19:5,6) And so the Psalmist could sing: “Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to Your holy name and glory in your praise!” (Psalm 106:47).

Being a priestly people was fraught with difficulty. For due to the fall, it was entirely possible for the cultic to come unglued from the spiritual reality of the heart. God through His prophets everywhere decries this: “This people draws near to me with their mouth and honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men” (Is. 29:13). Despite the carefully given instructions and the warning that circumcision must be of the heart and not only in the flesh—that is, that inner and outer self should not come disconnected, yet the old covenant hobbled along only able to point toward the true liturgical life, and being itself but a most imperfect sign of it. It clearly taught that all is gift of the Lord, that He has claim over all things, that the wage sin pays is death, that the gift God would give is life, that thanksgiving is what we were made for.

Consider especially the way that Eden is described in Isaiah 51:3: “For the Lord comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.” So where Zion, there a taste of Eden restored, there joy (always the byproduct of the Lord’s presence - see Psalm 16:11), there thanksgiving and there the voice of song. Get that and you’ll understand then what the Lord is up to in establishing His Church in this fallen world (amid the waste places and the wilderness and the desert). He’s planting here on our fallen soil a colony of Eden, a piece of the age to come, where the thanksgiving is perpetual, where the songs never end.

And so in the vision of the NT, as all that was imperfect in the Old Covenant and its worship is

brought to completion and filled to the brim and then overflowing by Christ our Lord, we see that His whole life is liturgy, is praise, is thanksgiving, is communion with the Father, is offering of sacrifice that never comes unglued out from the inner, that is whole and complete and perfect. He is PRIEST. Dr. Luther once said of this: "Priest is a strong and lovely word. There is no lovelier or sweeter name on earth. It is much better to hear that Christ is called 'Priest' than Lord, or any other name. Priesthood is a spiritual power which means no other than that the priest steps forth, and takes all the iniquities of the people upon Himself as His very own. He intercedes with God for them and receives from Him the Word with which He can comfort and help the people. By being priest He makes God our Father and Himself our Lord... He offered Himself once for all, so that He is both Priest and Sacrifice, and the Altar is the Cross. No more precious sacrifice could He offer to God than that He gave Himself to be slain and consumed in the fire of love. That is the true sacrifice." (Exposition of Genesis 14, Day by Day, p.151).

Christ offers the perfect liturgy, receiving all as gift, offering all in thanksgiving to the Father. Because of the fall, we imagine vainly that life is something we have to cling to to possess; Christ flat-out tells us that's a lie. That it is in the pouring out of life that one receives a life that never can be taken from you. The One who is consumed as an offering in the fire of divine love is given a life that can never ever end!

And this is the life that He has baptized us into—His own indestructible life. This is the life that He has poured down our throats in the Eucharist—His own indestructible life. And so it is and must be the shape of our lives in this world: sacrifices! For we have no other life than HIS, and His life is constantly a life for others, a life given away and so eternal.

So note the sacrificial, liturgical language of the New Testament writers! It's everywhere. Here are but a few:

- "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, THAT YOU MAY PROCLAIM THE EXCELLENCIES OF HIM who called you out of darkness, into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9).

- "To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His own blood and MADE US A KINGDOM, PRIESTS TO SERVE HIS GOD AND FATHER, to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever" (Rev. 1:5,6)

- "Because of the grace given me by God to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:15,16).

- "So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31).

- "For we are the temple of the living God, as God said...Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God" (2 Cor. 6:16-7:1).

- "Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God" (Eph 5:2).

- "Put to death what is earthly in you." – that is, sacrifice it! (Col. 3:5)

- "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances." (1 Thes. 5:16-17)

- "Everything created by God is good and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer" (1 Tim 4:4,5)

- We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat...Through Him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge His name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." (Heb. 13:10-16)

Oh, so many, many more. Does it begin to come clear? LIFE was meant to be liturgy and because we fell from that perpetual thanks giving and joy of God's presence, our Lord came into the flesh, and He came to be Priest and Sacrifice, to atone for sin, and to open up the way for us to find LIFE again—and that life, as His life, will be liturgical: where all is a gift from a God who loves and where the praise and thanksgiving redound to Him for the gifts received and where we are privileged to suffer and offer our sufferings under His own as praise to the Father of lights. Liturgy is LIFE and Life is Liturgy. This the Church's historic liturgy witnesses to us with great faithfulness—for life is all about praise of God, listening to God's Word, confessing the faith to others, offering prayers of intercession and gifts of love—thus carrying the burdens of others—and receiving from His nail-scarred hands the gifts of His body, His blood, His forgiveness, His life, communion with Him and in Him with all the saints and angels. Do you see? It's not merely the Church service I've described; it's LIFE, life as God meant it to be and as He is restoring it to be in His Church.

And then there are the glimpses we get of the heavenly worship - Hebrews 12 and Revelation - and it all is very familiar. The throng of all peoples gathered with angels and archangels around the throne of the Lamb and acclaiming the blood that has purchased them for God, falling down before Him, giving glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Spirit forever and ever! The white robes, the golden censors, the prayers of the saints, the martyrs and angels. It's where all of life is headed: a world of endless doxology, communion, and joy in the Lamb.

## **FROM THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

“Unbroken Life, Broken Death”

Text: John 18-19



In the ✠ Name of Jesus. Amen.

Since last time Good Friday, about one year ago, there have been many deaths in our world. Deaths in our congregation. Deaths of family members. Deaths in our world due to war or other violence or crime. Deaths that came at the end of a long life, and

deaths that came when life had just begun. I think it fair to say that no one in the world went unaffected by death this past year. Or any year. And so it has been since sin entered the world. For the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).

That truth itself should disprove the popular (and I would say demonic) belief that some sins aren't so bad; I'm not hurting anyone. It is simply not so. **Every sin breaks life and brings death.** Either that's how fragile life is, or how deadly sin is - or both. And we cannot change that or fix it.

But there is one who can. In this world of fragile and broken life and strong and pervasive death, we have and proclaim hope. That there was someone whose life was not broken by sin, so that when He entered death, **He broke death.** He undid what had been done in the beginning when death came into this world of life, and so brought life into this world of death. A life that death in all its rage and fury cannot end. And that one was the one who created life in the beginning, the very Son of God Himself, Jesus of Nazareth.

When death came looking for Him, He did not deny; He confessed ***I am He.*** And death ***fell to the ground.*** *Every knee shall bow to Him,* after all (Philippians 2:10), even if they don't want to. And He would not fight off death, for He came to break it by dying. So, ***put your sword into its sheath,*** He said. He will drink this cup.

Those who thought they had power over Him, the power of life and death, to save Him or crucify Him, questioned Him. But Jesus does not answer as one subject to their authority, but as the one in authority. For indeed He is. *No one takes His life from Him. He lays it down of his own accord. This is the charge He received from His Father* (John 10:18): to die and break death. So He speaks the truth. Truth they don't want to hear. Truth that is inconvenient. Truth they do not know, as Pilate himself confessed. He speaks truth for He is truth.

But this light of truth shining in the darkness of our world of sin and death they cannot stand. ***Give us Barabbas*** instead. A man like us. A man of death. And what to do with the one who is unbroken life? Snuff Him out. ***Crucify Him.***

So, death nails Him down, mocks His kingship, and robs Him of His clothes. He knew they would. He said they would. And Scripture must be fulfilled. And then He leaves His mother to the care of another. The love of a dying man, OR . . . is that not what a man does when he goes to create life? *A man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh* (Genesis 2:24). Jesus is dying to break death and re-create life.

And when He dies, ***it is finished,*** He says. His life? No. Death. Death is finished. *Tetelestai,* the word He speaks which means ***it is finished,*** is the word that means all has been paid in full. What has been paid in full? The wages of sin. It is paid, finished, completed, and therefore so is death. Unbroken life enters death, and death will be forced to yield its prey.

And not just Jesus - but ALL its prey! For Jesus breaks death not just for Himself, but for us all. ***He bows His head and gives up His Spirit*** - that is, He *hands over* His Spirit, the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life (Nicene Creed) - to His Bride, to His Church, that we, too, have life. Life again. Life in the forgiveness of our sins. Life that triumphs over death.

And when this unbroken life enters into death, still He confesses life! When His side is pierced, ***out flow blood and water.*** The blood and water that still give life and cleanse us from our sins today. The water of the Font, the Blood of the Altar, the Body of the Cross, the unbroken life giving us life through these means.

So we can die unfearing. The angels will bear us home, to Abr'ham's bosom. Our bodies will be kept safe in peaceful sleep until our own third day. And then our graves will be broken, broken open in Life, at the Life's reappearing. And then our eyes with joy will see what faith has believed all along - our Saviour and our fount of grace and Life, our Lord Jesus Christ. And we will praise Him without end (LSB #708 v. 3). The Unbroken Life, unbroken still. And unbroken forever.

In the ✠ Name of Jesus. Amen.

**Yours in Christ,** *Pastor GeRue*

## Upcoming Events

Monday, March 2:	9 am School Opening
Tuesday, March 3:	9 am School Opening 9:30 am FVLHS Newsies 3:45 pm Boys VB Practice
Wednesday, March 4:	9 am Lenten Service
Thursday, March 5:	9 am School Opening 3:45 pm Boys VB Practice
Friday, March 6:	9 am School Opening 2:30 pm Electives
Monday, March 9:	9 am School Opening
Tuesday, March 10:	9 am School Opening 2:30 pm Electives 3:45 pm Boys VB Practice
Wednesday, March 11:	9 am Lenten Chapel
Thursday, March 12:	9 am School Opening Assembly The Respect Tour 4:30 pm Boys VB Game @ Home vs Celebration
Friday, March 13:	End of 3rd 1/4 9 am School Opening 12:30 pm Drum Tao PAC 5th – 8 <sup>th</sup> Grades
Saturday, March 14:	5:00 pm School Sings
Monday, March 16:	NO SCHOOL
Tuesday, March 17:	9 am School Opening 4:30 pm Boys VB Game @ Home vs Celebration
Wednesday, March 18:	9 am Lenten Chapel
Thursday, March 19:	9 am School Opening 9:30 am Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus PAC K4 – K5 3:45 pm Boys Volleyball Practice
Friday, March 20:	9 am School Opening Academic Fair
Monday, March 23:	9 am School Opening Dining Out Culver's
Tuesday, March 24:	9 am School Opening 3:45 pm Volleyball Practice
Wednesday, March 25:	9 am Lenten Service 12:30 pm Magic School Bus 1 <sup>st</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> Grades
Thursday, March 26:	9 am School Opening 4:30 pm Volleyball Party
Friday, March 27:	9 am School Opening 7:00 pm – 7:00 am Lock-In 5 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> Grades Popcorn Friday
Monday, March 30:	9 am School Opening
Tuesday March 31:	9 am School Opening 4:30 pm Boys VB Game @ Celebration



# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FINANCIAL REPORT JAN. 2026

<u>Operating Accounts</u>	<u>BEGINNING BALANCE</u>	<u>DEPOSITS/INCOME</u>	<u>WITHDRAWALS/EXPENSES</u>	<u>ENDING BALANCE</u>
Ministry Fund	\$20,638.12	\$80,750.64	(\$77,737.78)	\$23,650.98
LCEF Steward Fund	\$1,306.48	\$6,696.25	(\$7,414.10)	\$588.63
Money Market	\$67,278.98	\$27.65		\$67,306.63
Nicolet Memorial Fund	\$383.22	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$383.22
Nicolet Office Acct	\$3,302.78	\$1.36		\$3,304.14
Nicolet Scrip	\$6,280.02	\$19,854.67	(\$13,810.36)	\$12,324.33
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$99,189.60</b>	<b>\$107,330.57</b>	<b>(\$98,962.24)</b>	<b>\$107,557.93</b>

<u>Restricted Accounts</u>	<u>BEGINNING BALANCE</u>	<u>DEPOSITS/INCOME</u>	<u>WITHDRAWALS/EXPENSES</u>	<u>ENDING BALANCE</u>
Nicolet Restricted Funds*	\$67,537.77	\$539.30	(\$920.00)	\$67,157.07
LCMS Endowment Fund**	\$154,407.93			\$154,407.93
Schwab Wealth***	\$60,089.41			\$60,089.41
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$282,035.11</b>	<b>\$539.30</b>	<b>(\$920.00)</b>	<b>\$281,654.41</b>

<u>School Accounts</u>	<u>BEGINNING BALANCE</u>	<u>DEPOSITS/INCOME</u>	<u>WITHDRAWALS/EXPENSES</u>	<u>ENDING BALANCE</u>
School Checking	\$7,144.16	\$21,667.63	(\$10,239.77)	\$18,572.02
Hot Lunch	\$3,129.72	\$1,089.56	(\$2,953.55)	\$1,265.73
School Savings	\$18,240.73	\$1.94	(\$4,666.83)	\$13,575.84
Scholarship Fund	\$2,004.39	\$724.20	\$0.00	\$2,728.59
PTL	\$4,643.93	\$166.51	(\$55.00)	\$4,755.44
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$35,162.93</b>	<b>\$23,649.84</b>	<b>(\$17,915.15)</b>	<b>\$40,897.62</b>

<u>All Accounts</u>	<u>BEGINNING BALANCE</u>	<u>DEPOSITS/INCOME</u>	<u>WITHDRAWALS/EXPENSES</u>	<u>ENDING BALANCE</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$416,387.64</b>	<b>\$131,519.71</b>	<b>(\$117,797.39)</b>	<b>\$430,109.96</b>

**LCEF Mortgage (BOTR)**

\$774,713.16

(\$3,216.58)

\$771,496.58

# NEIGHBORS

## Supporting Neighbors



**MONDAY, MARCH 23 • 5-8PM**

Join us in supporting Trinity Lutheran Menasha 5th - 8th Graders, as 15% of all sales will be donated, including sales of gift cards!

There's no limit to how much heart you can put into the community – and we're always looking for opportunities for neighbors to help neighbors. Join us and consider giving what you can to our local cause today.

Thank you for your support!



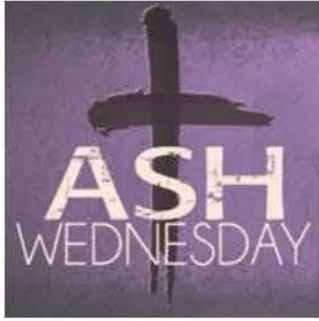
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## *The Angels of the Passion*

### 2026 Sermon Theme for Lent Mid-Week Services

The theme of our Lent mid-week meditations this year is: “The Angels of the Passion.” This is just a fun way for me to try to tell the passion account in a creative way. Yes, I have taken some poetic license here but believe I remain faithful and true to the passion account. I hope this makes you think about the passion account in a new way and grow in appreciation for it.

Our Lenten Mid-Week Services are at 9:00 AM and 6:30 PM. The weekly topics will be:

- March 4: “Angels of the Passion: A Mission of Mercy, Part 1”  
Scripture Reference: Genesis 19:1-16; Matthew 4:1-11
- March 11: “Angels of the Passion: Traitors!”  
Scripture Reference: Job 1:1, 6-12; 2:1-8; Luke 22:24-34 and John 13:21-30
- March 18: “Angels of the Passion: A Mission of Mercy, Part 2”  
Scripture Reference: Deuteronomy 21:22-23; Luke 22:39-46
- March 25: “Angels of the Passion: Just One Little Word”  
Scripture Reference: 2 Kings 6:8-23; Matthew 26:47-56

Join us for the mid-week Lenten meal which begins at 5:15 pm.

#### **Holy Week Divine Services:**

Palm Sunday, March 28 & 29: Saturday: 5:00 PM, Sunday 9:00 AM

Maundy Thursday, April 2: 9:00 AM and 6:30 PM

Good Friday, April 3: Tre Ore Service: 12:00 PM  
Tenebrae Service: 6:30 PM

Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 4: 7:30 PM

Easter Sunrise Divine Service, April 5: 6:30 AM

Easter Sunday Divine Service, April 5: 9:00 AM

#### **Trinity Lutheran Church and School**

300 Broad Street • Menasha, WI 54952

Phone: (920) 722-2662 Website: [www.trinitymenasha.com](http://www.trinitymenasha.com)

Email: [churchadmin@trinitymenasha.com](mailto:churchadmin@trinitymenasha.com)

## Lamb Cake Sale 2026



Handbell Fundraiser 

Order YOURS TODAY!! Only \$20!!



Pound cake! Shaped like a lamb!

Order Forms available: on posters in the narthex, church office, and from Rose.

Fill out Order Form and return with payment

BY 29 March, Palm Sunday!

Your cake will be ready Easter morning! †

♥ in the library (room off the Narthex)


 your name will be on your cake!

ALL Proceeds will help to pay the purchase of 3<sup>rd</sup> Handbell Octave (due to ship 1 April)!!

Thank you for supporting the Handbell-3-octave purchase!!

## Love to Sing?

Join us on **March 6** (Friday Night)


 at 7pm to experience

**Trinity Monthly Friday Hymn-Sing!**

Pastor B will begin with a brief devotion

**Followed by Call-Outs from YOU!**

  What's **YOUR** favorite hymn??

 *we'll keep picking people to call out their favorite hymns, and sing 2+ stanzas ... for an hour!*

Oh ... Reception follows in the Narthex!! 

*Any questions, call or see*

Bart, 920-734-8843 or Rose, 608-213-2644

## Handbells - 3<sup>rd</sup> Octave

Ordered! ...

**\$\$ DUE AT SHIP-DATE ...1 APRIL!!**

**TOTAL \$8355.00**

Looking for ANY donations

to the "CAUSE" ... 



*If you'd like to put \$\$ toward the Handbell Purchase, PLEASE feel free to do so!!*



**"Handbell – 3<sup>rd</sup> Octave" envelopes available in the Narthex, Church Office (& Rose). Fill out front of envelope, place check or \$\$ in envelope & deliver to Office or Rose BEFORE 29 March. (Checks to: Trinity LC, memo: Handbells-3rd)**

## ThedaCare At Home Seeks Volunteers for their Hospice Program

ThedaCare At Home, a partner of Froedtert and Holy Family Memorial, is seeking hospice volunteers in your community to assist in caring for terminally ill patients and their families. Our volunteers are an integral part of our hospice team as they visit patients in their homes and at long-term care facilities. Volunteers help to meet the emotional, spiritual and family needs of those on hospice by providing companionship and respite. They really are the heart of hospice! Training is provided and helps build on a volunteer's experience and skills to learn about hospice philosophy, comfort care, and communication with patients and their families. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Shana Farrell via phone at 920-422-7583 or email at shana.farrell@thedacare.org to learn more about this opportunity and upcoming trainings. You can also begin by filling out our application at <https://thedacare.org/about-us/volunteers/>.

## It's Not Too Late! Join Our Students in Fang's Reading Club!



### Have you been reading?

There's still time to participate in the Fang's Reading Program for Adults!

Join our Trinity School students in Reading! They are participating in their **Fang's Reading Program**, and we'd like to offer you a chance to get involved by taking some time to read. At the end of the program, there is an opportunity to celebrate by going to a Timber Rattlers game.

Here's the adults challenge—Parents, Grandparents, Congregation Members:

We'd like to challenge **YOU** to read a total of 8 hours before March 15 (or 2 hours a week if you started at the beginning) -not social media or emails—but books or magazine articles—the Bible would be a great choice!

**If you didn't see this at the start, you can still start this week—just finish by March 15!**

If you complete that goal, fill out the form below to put your name in a drawing for a pair of ticket vouchers to our school game day, on **Thursday, May 28 @ 6:40 p.m.**

(If you want to do the challenge, but not be in the drawing—just write that on your entry form. We'd still like to know how many adults participated!)

### Enjoy Reading Again!!!

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

Phone # or Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read 2 hours for each of the four weeks for  
The Fang's Reading Program.

Please fill out and put the form in the container  
near the Scrip area. Drawing will be after March 15.

## South Wisconsin District Student Financial Aid

Anyone attending a Concordia University or Seminary, is a member of an LCMS congregation in the SWD and is preparing to be a full-time church worker (pastor, teacher, deaconess, DCE/DCO, DFLM, DPM, lay minister) is encouraged to apply. There are two applications required (District Financial Aid Application and Personal Aid Application). Both are available on the SWD website – [www.swd.lcms.org/AID](http://www.swd.lcms.org/AID). **Applications are due at the District Office by May 15.**





National  
Public Health  
Week April 6-12, 2026

## A Constellation of Community:

Join the constellation! Across our county, departments shine like stars, and these FREE Wisconsin Idea Week events bring them into alignment for something extraordinary.

Presented by:



**Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
WINNEBAGO COUNTY



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
Winnebago County, WI

**GooseChase Scavenger Hunt**  
All Week | WIN PRIZES!

**An Introduction to Planning AHEAD**  
4/6 - 6:00pm | Neenah Public Library

**Emergency Preparedness using Plain Language**  
4/7 - T.B.A. | Winneconne Public Library

**Sustainability and Healthy Living &  
Pressure Canner Testing**  
4/8 - 5:00pm | Omro Community Center

**Community Engagement Fair**  
4/9 - 5:00pm | Sunnyview Expo Center

**Climate Smart: Gardening, Air Quality, and  
Health**  
4/10 - 4:15pm | Oshkosh Public Library

**Registration Required for all programs.  
Check out our website for more info!  
Questions? 920-232-1970**

**FREE!**



<https://winnebago.extension.wisc.edu/wisconsin-idea-week-2026/>

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming in compliance with state and federal law.